The Herald-Palladium
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@HeraldPalladium HeraldPalladium SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2014 $1

Snyder OKs welfare drug-testing plan

3 counties to pilot program for 1 year

By COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press

DETROIT — Gov. Rick Snyder signed legislation Friday that creates a drug-testing program for adult welfare recipients who are suspected of using drugs.

The Republican-backed proposals, House Bill 4118 and Senate Bill 275, were among several bills approved by Snyder. The one-year pilot program will be implemented in three counties that have not yet been determined.

Under the program, welfare recipients or applicants suspected of drug use will be required to take a substance abuse test. Refusal to take the test will result in being ineligible for benefits for six months.

A positive drug test would lead to referrals to treatment programs. If an individual refuses to participate in the program or fails to submit to periodic substance abuse testing required under the program, their assistance will be terminated. Benefits can be restored after a person passes a substance abuse test.

"We want to remove the barriers that are keeping people from getting good jobs, supporting their families and living independently," Snyder said in a press release. "This pilot program is intended to help ensure recipients get the wrap-around services they need to overcome drug addiction and lead successful lives. We'll then have opportunity to assess effectiveness and outcomes."

Opponents of the legislation, including the Michigan League for Public Policy, have said similar programs in other states haven't saved taxpayers money. The nonpartisan Senate Fiscal Agency estimated a statewide program would cost roughly $700,000 to $3.4 million, while potentially saving $370,000 to $3.7 million in caseload reductions.

The American Civil Liberties Union has said the program would promote ugly stereotypes of poor people and discriminate against a group that doesn't use drugs at a rate significantly higher than the general population.

"We give out tax credits to schools, we give out tax credits to students, we give out tax credits to police and fire (departments)," Sen. Vincent Gregory, D-Southfield, said earlier this year on the Senate floor. "And yet the only (group) that we are now saying is subject to drug screening are the poor – the poorest of the poor."

Michigan has roughly 80,000 welfare recipients, 21,000 of them adults age 18 and older who could be subject to drug testing depending on which counties are selected for the pilot.

The pilot program must be completed by Sept. 30, 2016.

Snyder also signed bills Friday that extend the Michigan film credit program by seven years to 2021; update who can administer the oath of office for state representatives and senators to include the secretary of the Michigan Senate and clerk of the Michigan House of Representatives; and allow cemetery owners to recover burial rights for abandoned burial plots.

He vetoed legislation that would have established procedures for naming Michigan delegates and alternates to a federal constitutional convention, in the event one is called.

Photos by Louise Wrege / HP staff

Lizabeth TerMeer feeds a filly that is one of nine former Deer Forest animals waiting to be adopted at Blessings Animal Farm in Coloma. A group of people connected through Facebook and bought 34 animals in August as Deer Forest was closing. This filly was added to the group a couple of weeks ago when the man who purchased her could no longer care for her. The group is looking for people to adopt the remaining animals and for donations to pay for their care until they are adopted.

Homes found for most Deer Forest animals

However, 9 remain and costs are adding up

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

COLOMA — Mother-daughter Belgian horses, two chickens that lay colorful eggs, a family of three Mongolian wild asses, a filly and a cat – these are all the animals left to be adopted from the former Deer Forest animals purchased by volunteers who met through Facebook.

The group originally bought 34 animals in August and eventually found homes for all but eight. The filly was added a couple of weeks ago after the man who bought her from Deer Forest said he couldn't care for her anymore, bringing the total animals left to nine.

Blessings Animal Farm in Coloma is housing all the animals.

Deer Forest, for years a popular theme-park, closed for good in late summer after the park managers ran into financial difficulty.

Sheila LoPresti of Dowagiac, who helped organize the Facebook group, said it has been very rewarding to see the animals go to caring homes. She thought the most difficult animal to adopt out would be the oldest Belgian mare, which was malnourished. But she was adopted fairly quickly by a zookeeper from Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend, Ind., along with the pony.

"That was a true blessing for us because in the beginning, we didn't even know if the oldest mare was going to make it. We thought we might have to put her down," she said.

LoPresti said they discovered that the oldest mare needed to be fed separate from the other two Belgians.

"They were bullying her, and she was getting next to no food."

The zookeeper in South Bend built a barn and fenced in a field just for the mare and the pony.

Mother-daughter Belgian draft horses are among the nine former Deer Forest animals waiting to be adopted at Blessings Animal Farm in Coloma. A group of people connected through Facebook and bought 34 animals in August as Deer Forest was closing. The group is looking for people to adopt the remaining animals and for donations to pay for their care until they are adopted.

Another success story is Mondo the iguana. LoPresti said another zookeeper from Potawatomi Zoo bought him so he can be used for educational purposes.

"We're so excited that we've adopted out all but nine," she said.

See **DEER FOREST**, page A8

EAU CLAIRE

Man dies after being hit by truck

Victim, 59, struck while walking along M-140

By ANDREW LERSTEN
HP Staff Writer

EAU CLAIRE — An Eau Claire area man died this week when he was struck by a pickup truck in rural Pipestone Township, authorities said.

The fatal crash occurred on M-140 near Black Lake Road shortly before 7 p.m. Wednesday, Berrien County Sheriff's Deputy Katie VanKampen said.

Michael Wrenn, 59, was pronounced dead at the scene, VanKampen said.

The truck was driven by a Benton Harbor man, 22, whose name is not being released because the crash is under investigation.

Wrenn was a resident of the nearby Eau Claire Home, at 2860 M-140, operated by Spectrum Health. He was known to frequently walk in or next to M-140, and police had received previous calls of him being in the road there, VanKampen said.

In this case, the truck driver told police he was northbound on M-140 and struck Wrenn, who was in the road.

Wrenn was free to come and go from his foster care home, police added.

While the accident remains under investigation, speed and alcohol do not appear to be factors, VanKampen said.

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Russia labels NATO build-up a threat

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia identified NATO as the nation's No. 1 military threat and raised the possibility of a broader use of precision conventional weapons to deter foreign aggression under a new military doctrine signed by President Vladimir Putin on Friday.

NATO flatly denied it is a threat to Russia, and accused Moscow of undermining European security.

The new doctrine, which comes amid tensions over Ukraine, reflected the Kremlin's readiness to take a stronger posture in response to what it sees as U.S.-led efforts to isolate and weaken Russia.

The paper maintains the provisions of the previous, 2010 edition of the military doctrine regarding the use of nuclear weapons.

It says Russia could employ nuclear weapons in retaliation for the use of nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction against the country or its allies, and also in the case of aggression involving conventional weapons that "threatens the very existence" of the Russian state.

But for the first time, the new doctrine says Russia could use precision weapons "as part of strategic deterrent measures." The document does not spell out when and how Moscow could resort to such weapons.

Examples of precision conventional weapons include ground-to-ground missiles, air- and submarine-launched cruise missiles, guided bombs and artillery shells.

Among other things, the paper mentions the need to protect Russia's interests in the Arctic, where the global competition for its vast oil and other resources has been heating up as the Arctic ice melts.

See **RUSSIA**, page A8

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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College sees small, big benefits with loan promise

By JEFF KAROUB
Associated Press

ADRIAN — When it came time to pick a college, Abby Slusher leaned toward a private school near her southeastern Michigan home for the small campus and class sizes. Her mother pushed Adrian College for another reason: A new program guaranteeing every graduate would make more than $37,000 or get some or all student loans reimbursed.

Adrian is among the first colleges to take out insurance policies on all incoming freshmen and transfer students who have student loans and at least two years of school remaining.

"She said, 'Look at me, I'm still trying to pay my student loans off – this would be great. I don't want you in this situation,'" said Slusher, 18, who is studying to become a social worker. "And seeing her in this situation, I don't want that."

The idea has been around for a few decades at Yale Law School and for specific programs elsewhere, such as seminary and social work degrees. Some small, religious schools started offering guarantees to all new students in recent years, but Adrian President Jeffrey Docking is taking it further by framing the program as a solution to skyrocketing tuition costs and student loan defaults. His crusade has gotten the attention of U.S. lawmakers and education officials.

Carlos Osorio / AP
Jordan Buck, left, and Dylan Hulett review parts of a dissected fetal pig at Adrian College in Adrian earlier this month.

"Obviously, we feel like this is a big solution to a big problem – maybe the biggest problem right now in higher education," Docking said. "We felt like we needed to make a grand statement."

Adrian paid roughly $575,000 this year, or $1,165 per student, to take out policies on 495 students. For those who graduate and get a job that pays less than $20,000 a year, the college will make full monthly student loan payments until they make $37,000 a year. With a job that pays $20,000 to $37,000, the college will make payments on a sliding scale.

There's no time limit for the payment plan, but the college caps total loan payments at $70,000 per student. Adrian's annual cost of tuition, room and board is about $40,000 before any forms of financial aid.

The school has 1,700 students.

Docking already sees benefits: The entering freshmen class is up about 50 students to 570; to break even, the school determined it needed about two dozen new students who took out loans. He credits the program in part for the enrollment increase but says other efforts, like launching a varsity bass fishing team, have served as a lure.

About 35 miles northwest of Adrian, Spring Arbor University, a small Christian institution, offered a similar guarantee to every incoming freshman in fall 2013. A conversation with Spring Arbor's former president inspired Docking.

Although Spring Arbor officials see value in the program, they're likely to scale it back next year.

"For the vast majority of students, it's not a deciding factor in choosing Spring Arbor," said school spokesman Malachi Crane. "Is there a way to better tailor it to students who really need it and have the desire to have that option? For us, it makes more fiscal sense not to automatically assign it to each and every student."

Both programs were made possible by the Loan Repayment Assistance Program Association, a Bloomington, Indiana-based organization that works with U.S. colleges and universities. Peter Samuelson, the organization's president, said some schools "have ramped up, ramped back down and ramped back up again" with loan programs, but overall results are positive.

"There's much more likelihood they're going to complete college successfully," Samuelson said.

To get word out about the program, Docking met with other university presidents and testified last year before a U.S. House higher education subcommittee. Retiring U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., made a floor statement last June praising Adrian's program as a model for other colleges.

Docking said federal education officials told him at a meeting in August that they are exploring ways to promote the program. Education Department spokeswoman Denise Horn said officials commend the college for its "creative approach" to helping students manage their loans.

"We're talking about this far and wide because we hope other colleges do it as well," Docking said.

Mark Kantrowicz, publisher of edvisors.com, a college planning and financing website, said such programs have grown as school administrators become more concerned about rising discount rates, or the percentage of gross tuition given back to students in the form of grants. He calls it an "arms race in recruiting students," and schools are trying to find ways to stop the discount rate from increasing.

"Obviously, loan repayment assistance provides assistance after the fact, and that has value," he said. "But it would be better to charge less in the first place."

Lotteries

Friday drawings

Michigan

Poker Lotto
7C-4D-7D-2S-5S
Midday Daily 3
2-5-8
Midday Daily 4
5-4-3-7
Daily 3
0-8-3
Daily 4
5-5-5-4
Fantasy 5
06-16-28-29-36
Estimated jackpot: $105,000
Keno
02-03-07-13-14-28-30-33-35-39-40-42-44-48-50-55-56-61-63-67-73-74
Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: $156 million
Powerball
Estimated jackpot: $110 million

Indiana

Quick Draw Midday
02-05-07-11-34-37-43-46-50-55-56-57-58-60-62-63-70-72-74-75
Daily Three-Midday
2-8-9
Daily Four-Midday
7-1-1-9

Illinois

Hit or Miss Midday
01-02-05-06-08-12-13-16-18-19-22-24, GLN : 5
Hit or Miss Morning
01-05-06-07-09-10-11-14-19-21-22-23, GLN : 3
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
12-22-24-28-36
Pick Three-Midday
3-2-4, Fireball: 1
Pick Four-Midday
2-3-2-5, Fireball: 2

Thursday evening drawings

Indiana

Cash 5
27-30-32-34-35
Poker Lotto
JC-7C-10H-5S-9S
Daily Three-Evening
0-5-4
Daily Four-Evening
9-3-0-3
Quick Draw Evening
04-09-11-12-17-18-20-22-24-36-38-39-41-43-48-50-61-73-77-78

Illinois

Hit or Miss Drive
03-08-09-12-13-16-17-18-19-20-23-24, GLN : 1
Hit or Miss Evening
03-04-05-10-11-12-13-15-16-20-21-23, GLN : 4
Lotto
13-14-22-25-38-48, Extra Shot: 14
Estimated jackpot: $13.25 million
Pick Three-Evening
9-0-0, Fireball:
Pick Four-Evening
2-9-9-1, Fireball: 9
Lucky Day Lotto
06-18-32-36-45
Estimated jackpot: $200,000

– *The Associated Press*

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Thousands attend wake for slain NYC officer

By MIKE BALSAMO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Thousands of uniformed police officers from New York City and around the country gathered Friday at the solemn, eight-hour wake of a city policeman who was killed along with his partner in a brazen daytime shooting a week ago.

Mayor Bill de Blasio, who had been criticized by the police union for his handling of protests critical of officers, briefly attended Officer Rafael Ramos' viewing at the Christ Tabernacle Church in Queens, where Ramos was brought in a flag-draped casket and viewed in full dress uniform.

"Dad, I'm forever grateful of the sacrifices you made to provide for me and Jaden," Ramos' son, Justin, said during the wake, referring to his younger brother, as officers gathered in the street watched on giant television screens.

Ramos' funeral is scheduled for Saturday. Vice President Joseph Biden and Mayor de Blasio have said they'll attend. The funeral for Ramos' partner, Officer Wenjian Liu, hasn't yet been announced.

Throughout the day, colleagues and those who knew him described Ramos as a selfless and compassionate man.

Pastor Ralph Castillo said Ramos was a beloved member of the church.

"Whether he was helping a mom with a carriage or bringing someone to their seats, he did it with so much love and so much vigor and so much joy," Castillo said.

The 40-year-old's commanding officer, NYPD Capt. Sergio Centa, said he was studying to be a pastor.

"He had Bible study books in his locker, which is rare for a police officer, but that goes to show you the type of man he was," Centa said.

Ramos and Liu were shot to death without warning Dec. 20 while sitting in their patrol car on a Brooklyn street.

Gunman Ismaaiyl Brinsley, before he attacked Ramos and Liu, had referenced in online posts the high-profile killings by white police officers of unarmed black men, specifically Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner on Staten Island. Brinsley, who was black, committed suicide soon after shooting the officers.

Their killings ramped up emotions in the already tense national debate over police conduct. Since the deaths, police in New York say they have arrested seven people accused of threatening officers.

Police union officials have criticized de Blasio, saying he contributed to a climate of mistrust toward police amid protests over the deaths of black men at the hands of white officers. Union officials have said the mayor's response, including his mention of how he often fears for the safety of his biracial son in his interactions with police, helped set the stage for the killings.

There was no reaction from officers at Ramos' viewing when de Blasio arrived shortly after 9 p.m. and left about 15 minutes later.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, who attended the wake earlier in the day, has called for calm after the head of the police union said the mayor had blood on his hands the day Ramos and Liu were killed.

And after the killings, de Blasio called for a temporary halt to demonstrations, denouncing as "divisive" a demonstration that took place anyway on Thursday.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Friday the officers' deaths were senseless and said officials were reviewing the case to see what could be done, if anything, legislatively to prevent a further killing.

Process announced to select two Flint councilmembers

FLINT (AP) — Current members of the Flint City Council will interview candidates to fill two soon-to-be-vacated seats on the board, state-appointed emergency manager Darnell Earley announced Friday.

The interviews will be held at a special council meeting on Jan. 5.

Earley has given the names of three candidates each for Ward 3 and Ward 6 to the council. Applicants were sought after two councilmen, Bryant Nolden and Sheldon Neeley, were elected to other offices.

"This process satisfies my oversight responsibility as the state-appointed emergency manager ... while at the same time allowing the City Council to select its own replacements," Earley said in a press release.

The two new councilmembers will serve until November 2015 when they will need to seek election to serve the remainder of the vacant terms. Candidates for Ward 3 are Kerry Nelson, Linda Booze and Quincy Murphy, while candidates for Ward 6 are Theron Wiggins, Audrey Makokha and Herbert Winfrey. Earley said he expects the council to conclude their deliberations by the end of the Jan. 5 meeting.

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hp LOCAL & STATE

Autopsy: Death of woman from natural causes

Police rule out assault

By SCOTT AIKEN
HP Staff Writer

BARODA — A Lake Township woman whose body was found in a neighbor's yard Wednesday apparently died of natural causes, according to police.

An autopsy performed Friday revealed no signs of trauma or assault on Christine Franklin's body, Berrien County sheriff's Detective Lt. Greg Sanders said.

The complete autopsy report will not be available for several weeks, he said. The finished report will be sent to the county prosecutor's office for review.

Investigators have ruled out an assault on Franklin, 62, of 3918 Snow Road, who had been involved in an argument with her husband, Dennis Franklin, early Tuesday evening.

"We spoke with the husband and confirmed there was no assault," Sanders said.

Franklin's body was found by neighbors in the yard at 3892 Snow Road around 10:28 a.m. Wednesday.

After the discovery, police searched the area for Dennis Franklin without success. He returned around 10 p.m. Wednesday, police said.

Sanders said the unusual location of the body "raised some concerns, along with the argument that preceded this incident."

With the autopsy showing no trauma, police are closing out their investigation, he said.

The death was investigated by sheriff's officers, Baroda-Lake Township police, state police and the Berrien County medical examiner. Lake Township Fire and Rescue assisted.

Contact: saiken@TheHP.com. (269) 932-0358. Twitter: @HPAiken

Miss and Mr. South Haven

Contributed photo

Contestants have been announced for the 2015 Miss and Mr. South Haven pageant. The pageant is at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 3 at Listiak Auditorium at South Haven High School, 600 Elkenburg St. Advance tickets are available from any contestant. Tickets will also be available at the door the day of the pageant. Front row from left: Stephanie Postema, Allie Ruppert, Amaris Bryant, Jessica Price and Mia Jackson. Back row from left: Christian Birmeister, Clarissa Meza, Tayler Turonek, Jessica Miles and Colin Assink.

Good Fellow Fund still collecting donations

The Herald-Palladium Good Fellow fund pulled in more donations this week to help some needy folks in Southwest Michigan.

The total collected so far this season is $28,642.95. The goal is $35,000.

Here are some of the donations that came in this week:

Berrien Gutter Gals Bowling League, $88; Monday Musical Club of Southwestern Michigan, $1,089; Benton Harbor Community of Christ, $100; Exchange Club of Southwest Michigan, $250; Anjana Gupta, DDS, $100; John's Custom Countertops, $100; Far Ahead Advertising, $50; William and Sue Ellen Batson, $50; Fran Kintzele, $150.

Though Christmas is over, donations are still being accepted. Please send your checks to the Good Fellow Fund, c/o The Herald-Palladium. P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085. All the money raised stays in Southwest Michigan to help struggling families. The HP administers the fund, so all the contributions go to people in need.

Gov. Rick Snyder builds credentials for 2016

Michigan Republican among other Midwest governors positioned for a White House run

By THOMAS BEAUMONT
Associated Press

SNYDER

MADISON, Wis. — One group of potential candidates for president probably won't be shuffling off to Iowa, New Hampshire or other early campaign spots in the new year. They'll be hunkered down in statehouses across the Midwest, pushing bills through their legislatures.

Few outside their home states will notice, but these governors and their policies could wind up in the national campaign picture.

Scott Walker of Wisconsin, Mike Pence of Indiana, Rick Snyder of Michigan and John Kasich of Ohio were all elected after Republicans began taking political control of the middle of the country back in 2010. Since then, they have offered a glimpse of what some conservative policies would look like if put into wider effect.

Should any of these governors join the race for the White House, their state records would become their chief qualification for higher office and might provide some distance from partisan battles in Washington. The governors could also benefit from being in a region rich with swing states.

"All those governors have stories of success to tell and stories about crisis management," said veteran Republican presidential strategist Charlie Black.

Here's a look at what Snyder may be planning in 2015, and how he would be positioned to seek the presidency.

Snyder may already have the flashiest record of any Midwestern governor, but his achievements are also the trickiest to tout in a Republican presidential primary.

Snyder pushed his state's financially wrecked metropolis, Detroit, into federal bankruptcy court, a task that some people thought would take years, if it could be done at all. A year and a half later, the city emerged with a lighter debt burden, though still facing many difficulties.

That feat alone would give Snyder, a former computer company executive, unrivaled credibility as a turnaround artist. But to seal the Detroit deal, he had to commit $195 million in state money, making him a target for anti-spending conservatives in a national campaign.

Otherwise, he's been shaking up taxes, eliminating the state's corporate tax and proposing to raise others, like the fuel tax, to fix the state's crumbling roads. In the coming session, he'll try to expand technical education to help fill more than 70,000 openings for skilled jobs.

Snyder's willingness to stray from conservative orthodoxy — he expanded Medicaid despite his party's stand against President Barack Obama's health care overhaul — would make him suspect to the GOP's right wing. But bottom-line Republicans could be impressed by the 300,000 private-sector jobs created on Snyder's watch, an unemployment rate that dropped from 11.3 percent to 6.7 percent and a right-to-work law that made union membership optional.

Should he run, Snyder might join the "practical" candidates in the GOP field, such as New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

"He's got a phenomenal record in a very difficult state," said fellow Republican Gov. Terry Branstad of Iowa.

In brief

Make-A-Wish recognizes SJ couple

ST. JOSEPH — Harry and Sharon Miller of St. Joseph were among the 30 Leaders in Joy recognized recently by Make-A-Wish Michigan.

Leaders in Joy have played an integral role in helping to bring hope, strength and joy to Michigan children with life-threatening medical conditions, said Karen Davis, president and CEO of Make-A-Wish Michigan.

"Harry and Sharon's passion for creating life-changing experiences for wish kids is inspiring and has had a great impact on our wish families," Davis said in a press release. "It is an honor to recognize them for their extraordinary support of our mission and children."

Detroit teen dies, shot while playing with gun

DETROIT (AP) — A 16-year-old Detroit boy has died after being shot in the head Christmas Day while he and friends played with a gun.

The Detroit News and WDIV-TV report that the teen was taken off life support Friday at an area hospital and that a 19-year-old has been arrested.

The 16-year-old was shot about 1:30 p.m. Thursday at a home in the city's historic Virginia Park neighborhood, about three miles north of downtown.

Police say the teen and friends ages 19 and 17 were in the basement, and it wasn't immediately clear who pulled the trigger

Donor helps protect stretch of shoreline

HARBOR SPRINGS, Mich. (AP) — An anonymous donor has helped a northern Michigan conservancy buy a large, undeveloped stretch of Lake Michigan shoreline.

The Petoskey News-Review reports this week that the Little Traverse Conservancy has closed on the deal that includes roughly 2,400 feet of shoreline between Harbor Springs and Cross Village in the northwestern Lower Peninsula.

The deal also includes 2,300 feet along what's called the Tunnel of Trees.

Conservancy director Tom Bailey says his organization has raised all but $250,000 of its $1.8 million goal. The remainder will complete the acquisition and pay the mortgage coming due next year.

Berrien County Trial Court

Sentences

St. Joseph

Assault

Andrew J. Thompson, 35, Thresher Avenue, Benton Harbor, 93 days in jail for three counts of assault and battery, pointing a pistol at Tonisha Newbern, Ashley Hubbard and Malik Griffis on Sept. 8 at 250 E. Wall St., Benton Harbor.

Lonnie E. Walker, 66, Benton Harbor, 30 days in jail for domestic violence, assault and battery on his former girlfriend, Regina Pullian, on Aug. 1 at 369 Cedar St., Benton Harbor.

Sunny Woods, 46, East Britain Avenue, Benton Township, 12 days in jail (credit for 12 days already served), 90 days on tether, 18 months' probation, $1,698 and 50 hours of community service for attempted assault with a dangerous weapon (cane or metal hook) on Oct. 18 at 1972 E. Britain.

Sexual assault

Lerby C. Aguilar, 34, River Road, Sodus, two concurrent sentences of 15-50 years in prison for two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct (penetration) with a 9-year-old girl in Benton Township over the period of Dec. 22, 2013, through July 7.

Fleeing or resisting police

Owen C. Hinds, 45, East Empire Avenue, Benton Harbor, three concurrent sentences of 14 months to 15 years in prison for three counts of resisting and obstructing Benton Harbor police, public safety officers William Althouse and Jerol Williams, and reserve officer Josh Allen, Aug. 21 on East Empire. Hinds ran away when the officers attempted to question him about an assault, according to court records.

William A. Roseburgh, 39, Ross Street, Benton Harbor, one year in jail for third-degree fleeing and eluding state Trooper James Janes on April 26 at Main and Seeley streets, Benton Harbor.

Rebecca L. Greathouse, 37, Cleveland Avenue, Stevensville, $1,575 for attempted resisting and obstructing Lincoln Township officer John Chase and assault and battery on Troy Mott, both on June 10 at 2204 W. Glenlord Road, Lincoln Township.

Burglary

Germaine L. Meeks, 19, Hull Avenue, Benton Harbor, 180 days in jail and $198 for breaking and entering a house at 127 Catalpa St., Benton harbor, on Oct. 29.

Dustin A. Kline, 28, Parker Avenue, Benton Harbor, Germaine Meeks' co-defendant, 120 days in jail (part of sentence may be served in the Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program), 18 months' probation and $1,878 for attempted breaking and entering Oct. 29 at 127 Catalpa St., Benton Harbor. Kline was sentenced to concurrent 45-day jail term for a related offense of attempted resisting and obstruction Benton Harbor police.

Michael D. Hackney, 30, Bishop Avenue, Benton Harbor, 120 days in jail, two years' probation and $2,238 for third-degree home invasion, illegally entering a residence at 584 E. Main St., Benton Harbor, on Nov. 2, and a related offense of malicious destruction of property, smashing a window at the residence.

Weapons

Daquantaries M. Williams, 17, Catherman Street, Benton Township, 270 days in jail for carrying a concealed weapon (pistol) on his person Oct. 28 at Forest and Edgecumbe streets, Benton Harbor.

Reggy D. Palma, 20, Plaza Drive, Benton Township, 75 days in jail, two years' probation and $1,938 for carrying a concealed weapon (pistol) in a car Oct. 27 at Red Arrow Highway and Lemon Creek Road, Lake Township. Palma was sentenced to a concurrent 42-day jail term for a related offense of marijuana possession.

Drunken driving

Jason A. Baggett, 20, Arrowwood Curve, Benton Harbor, 120 days in jail, two years' probation and $1,938 for operating a vehicle while intoxicated and causing serious injury to Danielle Long on Dec. 29, 2013, on I-94 in Coloma Township. Baggett was the driver of a car involved in a rollover crash that injured Long, a passenger, according to court records.

Larceny

Richard W. Palms, 39, Euclid Avenue, Benton Township, 180 days in jail and $398 for larceny from a vehicle, stealing a guitar and amplifier from a car owned by Joseph Wesolowski on Nov. 1, 2013, at 4002 Watertown St., Watervliet Township.

Stolen property

Chloe M. Rose, 18, Jennings Avenue, Benton Harbor, 120 days in jail and $1,550 restitution for receiving and concealing a stolen car on Oct. 15 at Family Dollar, 481 Pipestone St., Benton Harbor.

Other

Jasmonique J. Miller, 22, Hastings Avenue, Benton Harbor, 70 days in jail for using a financial transaction device without the consent of the owner, Chet Mobile LLC, on Oct. 28 in Benton Harbor.

PlayStation, Xbox outages spark debate over hacker claims

By BRANDON BAILEY
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Sony's PlayStation network remained offline Friday on the second day of an outage that began roiling the online world just as eager video game players were unwrapping new consoles on Christmas morning.

Microsoft's Xbox Live service, which also went down Thursday, was back online Friday although the company reported reported problems with some functions in the afternoon.

Credit for the disruptions was claimed on Twitter by a group of self-proclaimed hackers called Lizard Squad – or someone purporting to speak for it. But many video game enthusiasts and some other hacker groups quickly condemned their actions. Even the notorious Kim Dotcom, a New Zealand-based online entrepreneur who's been accused of abetting Internet piracy, got into the act by offering free vouchers for his online privacy service if the Lizard Squad would agree to restore the Xbox network.

A Lizard Squad account on Twitter appeared to credit Dotcom's offer for the partial restoration of Xbox service on Friday. But exactly what happened is still unclear: Neither Sony nor Microsoft would say what disrupted their networks. And experts say it's difficult to trace the source of attacks or confirm claims of responsibility.

Sony Online Entertainment said on its website Friday that its Playstation network was still down, adding on Twitter: "We are working to restore full network services for all platforms - thanks, as always, for your patience!" A Microsoft support site said Xbox Live was available at midday Friday, but it reported new problems in the afternoon.

Signs of trouble emerged earlier this month when someone using a Lizard Squad account on Twitter began threatening to disrupt gaming services on Christmas – and then boasted of causing the outages on Thursday.

A person or group using the same name on Twitter took credit last August for similar attacks in which hackers overwhelmed company servers with a flood of Internet traffic, disrupting the online gaming networks operated by Sony, Riot Games and other companies. The same Twitter account was also used in August to make an apparently false report that a bomb was on an airliner carrying a Sony executive.

So far, there's no specific evidence to link these episodes with last month's malware attacks on Sony's movie division. The current episode doesn't appear to have exposed any corporate or customer data. But one expert said Friday that the Lizard Squad group is capable of serious disruption.

Holiday deliveries improve but hiccups continue

NEW YORK (AP) — Christmas came on time this year for most people.

After FedEx and UPS failed to deliver some presents in time for Christmas last year, the two package carriers improved their performance this holiday season.

FedEx delivered more than 99 percent of express packages as promised on Dec. 22 and Dec. 23, according to shipment tracker ShipMatrix. UPS delivered 99 percent of express packages as promised on those days.

Last year, the percentage of express packages delivered on time those days was in the "low 90s," said Mark D'Amico, a spokesman for ShipMatrix.

The firm did not have data for Christmas Eve deliveries as of Friday. It also does not provide data on packages that are sent using ground shipping, since those are not guaranteed to be delivered within a set time in the weeks before Christmas.

The improved performance comes after delays by FedEx and UPS last year were blamed on a mix of bad weather and overloaded systems, with more people shopping online. Neither company disclosed exactly how many packages were delayed a year ago, but said they represented a small share of overall holiday shipments.

To avoid similar headaches this year, FedEx and UPS invested in improving their systems and increased the number of seasonal workers they hired.

Mark Humphrey / AP

Teresa Clark fills an order at the Amazon fulfillment center on Cyber Monday, in Lebanon, Tenn., earlier this month. Retailers have been pushing back shipping deadlines and extending free shipping offers, putting more pressure package carriers.

FedEx said Friday it was "proud" of its performance this season and UPS said its operations ran smoothly, "demonstrating the value of our additional investments in capacity and technology." Neither company provided details on how many deliveries were delayed or actually delivered this year.

Both big shippers expected to ship the most packages during this holiday season than ever before. FedEx had previously forecast it would ship 290 million packages between Black Friday and Christmas Eve. UPS had said it expects to ship 585 million packages in December.

The record forecasts come as retailers have been pushing back ordering deadlines and extending free shipping offers, increasing the pressure to get packages delivered in time for the Christmas. Amazon extended its free-shipping deadline by a day to Dec. 19. Wal-Mart, Barnes & Noble and other retailers also said Dec. 19 was the cutoff to getting orders delivered by Christmas.

Overall, sales for the holiday shopping season are forecast to have climbed 5.5 percent from last year, according to a preliminary forecast issued Friday by MasterCard's SpendingPulse, which is based on aggregate sales activity on the MasterCard payments network and estimates for other payment forms, such as cash and check. The forecast does not provide an actual dollar figure.

The National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, had previously said it expects sales for the season – November and December – to rise 4.1 percent to $616.9 billion.

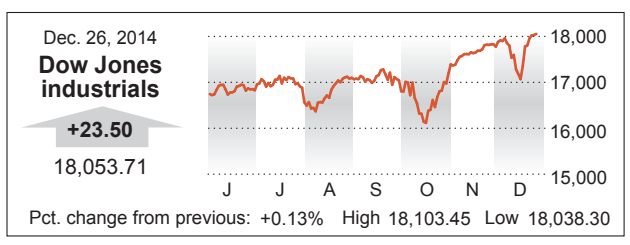
The big shipping season did have some hiccups. Package carriers say they work with retailers to help avoid problems, but shipments from retailers continued to experience a few some problems, according to two reports.

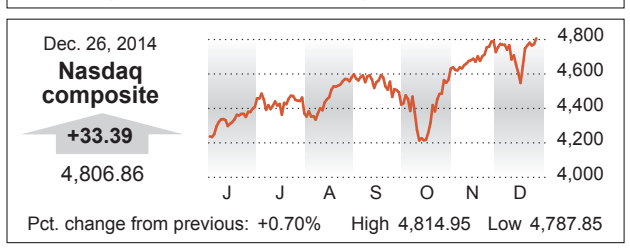
The consulting firm Kurt Salmon analyzed 93 orders and said 13 percent didn't make it to shoppers in time for Christmas, a slight improvement from 15 percent last year. The firm said retailers were to blame for all this year's delays, with reasons including inventory issues and a failure of retailers to select guaranteed shipping methods – even though they promised deliveries would be made by a certain date.

In some cases, Kurt Salmon said retailers may have underestimated how many packages it told shippers they expected to process for the holidays.

StellaService, a customer service tracker, also said it placed orders with 40 major retailers to different regions of the country. Of the 160 total orders it placed by the cutoff dates for delivery by Christmas, it said 10 did not arrive in time. One order placed with Staples was canceled without notification. A representative for Staples did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Markets





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Whirlpool WHR
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+3.4 +22.7

LocalStocks

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE LO	HI	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR
AT&T Inc	T	31.74	37.48	**34.17**	**+.21**	+0.6	▲	▼	▼
AEP	AEP	45.80	61.45	**61.99**	**+.68**	+1.1	▲	▲	▲
Apple Inc s	AAPL	70.51	119.75	**113.99**	**+1.98**	+1.8	▲	▼	▲
AutoZone	AZO	465.34	626.19	**618.76**	**+1.33**	+0.2	▬	▲	▲
BP PLC	BP	34.88	53.48	**38.98**	**+.03**	+0.1	▼	▼	▼
BonTon	BONT	6.59	17.99	**7.51**	**-.01**	-0.1	▲	▼	▼
CMS Eng	CMS	25.95	35.76	**36.09**	**+.40**	+1.1	▲	▲	▲
ChemFinl	CHFC	25.99	33.28	**30.73**	**+.04**	+0.1	▲	▲	▲
CocaCola	KO	36.89	45.00	**42.96**	**+.02**	...	▲	▼	▲
Comcast	CMCSA	47.74	58.22	**58.39**	**+.32**	+0.5	▲	▲	▲
Deere	DE	78.88	94.89	**90.24**	**-.02**	...	▲	▲	▲
Disney	DIS	69.85	95.12	**95.03**	**+.61**	+0.6	▲	▲	▲
ExxonMbl	XOM	86.19	104.76	**93.21**	**-.57**	-0.6	▼	▲	▼
FamilyDlr	FDO	55.64	80.97	**79.12**	**-.02**	...	▲	▲	▲
FifthThird	FITB	17.65	23.90	**20.59**	**...**	...	▲	▲	▲
1stSource	SRCE	27.56	34.70	**34.56**	**+.06**	+0.2	▲	▲	▲
FordM	F	13.26	18.12	**15.45**	**+.15**	+1.0	▲	▼	▲
GenElec	GE	23.69	28.09	**25.78**	**-.05**	-0.2	▲	▼	▲
Google A	GOOGL	497.19	615.03	**541.52**	**+4.59**	+0.9	▲	▼	▼
HomeDp	HD	73.96	104.38	**103.75**	**+.19**	+0.2	▲	▲	▲
HorizBcp	HBNC	19.38	26.75	**26.42**	**+.18**	+0.7	▼	▲	▲
HuntBncsh	HBAN	8.66	10.64	**10.57**	**+.01**	+0.1	▲	▲	▲
IDEX	IEX	65.91	81.82	**78.41**	**+.31**	+0.4	▲	▲	▲
IntegrysE	TEG	52.08	78.51	**79.83**	**+1.53**	+2.0	▲	▲	▲
IBM	IBM	150.50	199.21	**162.34**	**+.52**	+0.3	▲	▲	▼
JPMorgCh	JPM	52.97	63.16	**62.55**	**+.07**	+0.1	▲	▲	▲
JohnJn	JNJ	86.09	109.49	**105.06**	**+.47**	+0.4	▼	▼	▼
JournalCm	JRN	7.79	11.67	**11.69**	**+.14**	+1.2	▲	▲	▲
Lowes	LOW	44.13	68.35	**67.50**	**-.01**	...	▲	▲	▲
McDnlds	MCD	87.62	103.78	**94.78**	**+.95**	+1.0	▲	▼	▬
Microsoft	MSFT	34.63	50.05	**47.88**	**-.26**	-0.5	▲	▲	▲
MillerHer	MLHR	26.25	32.72	**29.62**	**+.38**	+1.3	▼	▼	▼
Penney	JCP	4.90	11.30	**6.50**	**...**	...	▼	▼	▼
Perrigo	PRGO	125.37	171.57	**165.96**	**-.15**	-0.1	▼	▲	▲
Pfizer	PFE	27.51	33.12	**31.65**	**+.23**	+0.7	▼	▲	▲
ProctGam	PG	75.26	93.89	**93.46**	**+.32**	+0.3	▲	▲	▲
RepubSvc	RSG	31.42	40.99	**40.87**	**+.04**	+0.1	▲	▲	▲
SearsHldgs	SHLD	24.10	48.25	**32.53**	**-.03**	-0.1	▼	▼	▲
Steelcse	SCS	13.60	18.34	**18.52**	**+.29**	+1.6	▲	▲	▲
Stryker	SYK	74.02	98.24	**95.64**	**-.36**	-0.4	▲	▲	▲
Target	TGT	54.66	75.32	**75.06**	**+.41**	+0.5	▲	▲	▲
TractSupp	TSCO	55.95	79.14	**77.92**	**+.12**	+0.2	▲	▲	▲
UPS B	UPS	93.19	113.10	**111.93**	**-.48**	-0.4	▲	▲	▲
VerizonCm	VZ	45.09	53.66	**47.86**	**+.19**	+0.4	▲	▼	▼
WalMart	WMT	72.27	88.09	**86.91**	**+.48**	+0.6	▲	▼	▲
Walgrn	WAG	55.27	77.98	**76.46**	**-.21**	-0.3	▲	▲	▲
Wendys Co	WEN	7.61	10.27	**8.92**	**-.08**	-0.8	▲	▲	▲
Whrlpl	WHR	124.39	193.78	**192.45**	**+1.30**	+0.7	▲	▲	▲
Worthgtn	WOR	29.59	45.39	**30.43**	**+.02**	+0.1	▲	▼	▼
XPO Logis	XPO	22.84	42.55	**42.18**	**+.21**	+0.5	▲	▲	▲

PRODUCE PRICES

The following prices were recorded on the Chicago Terminal Market on Tuesday. Prices are not net to the growers as freight and selling fees have not been deducted. These prices were provided by the USDA Market News Branch office in Chicago.

APPLES: cartons tray pack of Washington Extra Fancy Red Delicious 72s sold lower for mostly $21.50-$22, Golden Delicious mostly $25-$26, with Fuji at $25 and Honeycrisp 80s $33.50-$34.50 with fine appearance from $60-$62. Cartons of 12 3-pound film bags from Michigan graded U.S. Extra Fancy 2 1/2 inch minimum Red Delicious sold lower from $15.50-$16.50, Gala from $17.50-$18.50, Jonathan brought $15.50-$16.50 and Mcintosh $13-$14. WA Extra Fancy 2 1/2 inch minimum Red Delicious from Washington sold steady from $29-$30.

ASPARAGUS: 11-pound cartons/crates bunched standard size green from Peru sold lower for mostly $34-$35.

BEANS: bushel cartons/crates of round green type offerings from Florida sold lower for mostly $20-$21.

BERRIES: Flats of 12 1-pint cups with lids from Chile of medium size sold for $36, while 12 6-ounce cups of blueberries from Argentina sold steady from $29-$29.50, while Chile brought $25. Strawberries in flats of 8 1-lb containers of medium-large size from California sold lower for $26.

BROCCOLI: cartons of 14 bunches from California sold lower from $10.50-$12.50.

CABBAGE: 50-pound cartons of green medium size from Georgia sold lower for $13-$14, with red offerings $15-$16.

CAULIFLOWER: cartons of green 12 film wrapped heads from California sold steady for $20-$21.

CLEMENTINES: 5-pound containers of 20s from Spain sold for $6.

CORN: wirebound crates of 4-4 1/2 dozen ears of Florida bi-color and yellow sold for $26.

CUCUMBERS: 1 1/9 bushel cartons from Mexico of medium size sold lower for mostly $18-$20, fair quality $16, and cartons 24s for $8-$10. 200-300 size pickles from Mexico sold higher for $26-$26.50.

EGGPLANT: 1 1/9 bushel cartons of wrapped medium size from Florida sold higher for mostly $16-$18, with fair quality offerings $14.

LETTUCE: cartons film lined of 24 heads of iceberg lettuce from California sold steady from mostly $14-$15.

ORANGES: cartons 10 4-pound film bags of navels from California 88 size sold for $20.

PEPPERS: 1 1/9 bushel cartons of jumbo green bell peppers from Florida sold steady for $28, with extra-large $27-$28. Extra-large size jalapeno peppers from Mexico sold steady for mostly $21-$22, while medium hungarian wax type sold steady for $22-$23.

SQUASH: 4/7 bushel cartons of small size zucchini from Mexico sold lower from mostly $16-$17, with medium $14-$15. Offerings of yellow straightneck small sold lower for mostly $22, with medium $20. 1 1/9 bushel cartons/crates of medium size acorn from Mexico sold steady from $20-$22, with butternut mostly $19-$20 and spaghetti mostly $20-$22.

TOMATOES: Two-layer cartons loose vine ripes from Mexico of 4x5s sold lower for mostly $16-$18, 5x5s for mostly $13-$15, while 25-pound cartons of Mature Greens from Florida 5x6 size sold lower for $24-$24.50. Flats 12 1-pint containers with lids of light red-red medium size grape tomatoes from Florida sold lower for mostly $9-$11, while flats 12 1-pint baskets red cherry type of medium size from Florida sold lower for mostly $9-$10, and plum tomatoes packed in 25-pound cartons loose from Mexico of extra-large size sold lower from $16-$16.50.

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hp HOME & GARDEN

AP file photo

An outside deck at the home of Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates in the Seattle suburb of Medina, Wash., as seen in 2006. Gates' estate near Seattle is estimated by the real-estate website Zillow to be more than 50,000 square feet and worth roughly $145 million.

Celebrity style

Quirky add-ons are a common feature of homes of the rich and famous

By SOLVEJ SCHOU
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Actor Mark Wahlberg's Los Angeles mansion has a putting green. Tech billionaire Bill Gates' Medina, Wash., abode includes rooms where guests can customize the music, lighting and climate. Actress Shirley MacLaine's on-the-market New Mexico ranch includes a stone labyrinth.

Celebrity homes are a bright slice of the high-end real-estate market well beyond Hollywood. And for stars with money and imagination to spare, unique or quirky add-ons are routine. Neverland Ranch, the late Michael Jackson's former Southern California ode to childhood – amusement park, bumper cars and all – is not alone as an example of personalized architectural opulence.

Many celebrities "are recession-proof" when it comes to conceptualizing and paying for a niftily outfitted dream home, says Santa Monica, Calif.-based architectural designer Kevin J. Cozen, who has designed for high-profile clients for more than three decades.

For 89-year-old Hugh O'Brian, star of the 1950s and early '60s Western TV series "The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp," Cozen reduced the scale of the actor's house in the hilly Los Angeles neighborhood of Benedict Canyon to resemble a low-slung Prairie home, with lots of wood and glass to showcase nature-filled views.

"He wanted a Western influence, so it looked like you could tie your horse outside," says Cozen.

According to real estate expert and author Michael Corbett, who hosts "Mansions and Millionaires" on NBC's "Extra," quirky add-ons don't necessarily make homes more valuable to potential buyers, especially if those quirks – say, a boxing ring, or a $70,000 wall of candy – limit the field of those interested. A celebrity name attached, though, does help.

"The rule of thumb is that celebrity homes don't necessarily sell because they're celebrity homes," Corbett says. "Yet celebrities definitely increase marketability of a property. That increases the speed of the sale and sometimes the value of the property because of the marketability."

Besides a putting green, Wahlberg's 30,000-square-foot mansion, designed by celebrity architect Richard Landry and located in the gated neighborhood of Beverly Park, also features a full outdoor basketball court, a wine cellar, gym, library, and a rock-landscaped swimming pool with a waterfall and diving rock, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

MacLaine's New Age beliefs are embedded in every inch of her retreat near Sante Fe, Plaza Blanca Ranch, which she listed for sale earlier this year. The home includes a horse barn, chicken coop, yurt and a stone labyrinth path for meditation. There's also an underground apartment modeled after Native American kivas, built for spiritual ceremonies, she told the Wall Street Journal in April.

Gates' estate near Seattle is estimated by the real-estate website Zillow to be more than 50,000 square feet and worth roughly $145 million. The joint project between Bohlin Cywinski Jackson and Cutler Anderson Architects includes a 2,100-square-foot domed library with oculus, a trampoline room, a 1,500-square-foot Art Deco theater, heated floors and a 20-vehicle garage, all detailed in a 1997 overview by U.S. News & World Report. Visitors wear electronic pins that let a computer system track them, adjusting music, climate and lighting to each person.

The ultimate quirky celebrity home add-on could be Barbra Streisand's. An architecture buff and collector, Streisand converted the basement of her Malibu estate into her own faux shopping mall, with a street of shops, from a doll boutique to an antique clothing store, holding her possessions.

The pros and cons of keyless locks

By ANGIE HICKS
Angie's List (TNS)

DEAR ANGIE: Are keyless locks – the ones with a keypad – as good as regular deadbolts? — Deb H. of Madison, Wis.

DEAR DEB: Unless you're considering a traditional deadbolt that features a multi-lock system, the bolts in keyless locks and deadbolts are essentially the same. With that said, you may want to join the folks who've gone keyless for convenience.

Would not having to carry a key around sound like freedom to you? It might especially appeal to the many parents whose kids frequently lose house keys. Keep in mind, though, that keyless systems are battery-operated, and could fail if a battery isn't changed in time. Fortunately, most systems provide a key override so you're not left out in the cold.

Top-rated locksmiths list other benefits of keyless locks:

■ It's easy to change codes, and you can set temporary ones that expire after a designated time.

■ Some systems automatically lock a few seconds after you leave.

■ Some link to Bluetooth so you can operate the lock via a smartphone or tablet app.

■ You don't risk someone finding a key you've hidden outside.

Despite the many benefits, there are things to consider before committing to a keyless lock system:

■ Weather can affect how they function; they may not perform well after prolonged exposure to extreme heat, sun or cold.

■ You'll need to change the battery about once a year.

■ Someone could observe the numbers you input and learn your code.

■ If you don't change your code periodically, affected keys can wear down, increasing the chance of someone guessing the code.

Keyless locks cost more than traditional deadbolts. Expect to pay $30 to $50 to install a traditional deadbolt, and $150 to $250 for a keyless version, depending on brand and quality.

When hiring an installer, consider an experienced locksmith. A pro can spot defects, sagging hinges and other potential problems.

Angie Hicks is founder of www.AngiesList.com, provider of consumer reviews and services. Send questions to askangie@angieslist.com or tweet with #AskAngie.

Orchids are easier to care for than you think

Joe Lamp'l
The Gardener Within

I admit it. For years, the thought of growing orchids indoors was intimidating to the point I never tried. And I'm sure I'm not the only gardener who feels this way.

In reality, despite their reputation for being finicky flower divas, orchids aren't difficult to grow.

Like any plant, they'll thrive in the right conditions. Three of the best orchids for windowsill gardening are Phalaenopsis or phals, Paphiopedilum, also called paphs, and Cattleyas, catts for short.

TNS photo

Three of the best orchids for windowsill gardening are Phalaenopsis, Paphiopedilum and Cattleyas.

Phals, or Moth Orchids, have an arching flower spike that is covered with clouds of blooms for weeks or months at a time. They're divided into standard, novelty and mini flora varieties. The standards have large white, pink and candy-striped blooms. Novelties are the most fragrant, in colors of yellow, orange, red and green. Mini floras are a compact plant that sends up and branched flower spike covered with dozens of tiny blooms.

Paphs are also known as lady slippers for a jutting, chin-like pouch that forms their lower flower petals. The white, green, yellow, red or pink blooms are shaded, striped and covered with spots. Flower season is mid-fall through spring, but they bloom off and on all year with filtered light.

Catts are stunning – and versatile. They're available in every size, shape, color, fragrance and bloom time you could want. They're also the most confusing, because they've been crossbred to create many hybrids. Look for names like Brassavola, Rhyncho-aelia and Epidendrum or an entirely new genus like Brassoepi-dendrum. They're all catts, though.

When buying any orchid, choose one that's already flowering since it's the only way to really see what you are getting. Look for uniform color and shape. Splotches on leaves or petals may indicate a virus. Leaves should be an even, medium green with no streaks. Roots should be fat and white with pale green tips. These orchids are epiphytes; they gather nutrients from air and water, not soil. They should be sold in an orchid potting mix made of bark, peat moss and Perlite. And that medium should be firm and damp to dry, not soggy.

Orchids aren't picky about light once they've flowered, but before they bloom, light is critical. Give them at least six hours a day. Phals and paphs are low-light orchids that prefer an east, west or shaded south window. Catts do best in brighter, south-facing spots. Use sheer curtains to filter harsh sunlight, which can burn the leaves, turning them pale green. If you don't have any suitable windows, try a 40-watt fluorescent light. Hang it about a foot over the orchids 12 to 14 hours a day.

These plants like it 70 to 80 degrees in the daytime, 10 degrees cooler at night. If you have a winter-blooming phal, put it in the basement or outside in 55 to 60 degree fall air for a few nights to encourage budding. Give them all 40 to 80 percent humidity by setting pots in a tray filled with water and gravel. To prevent the risk of wicking excess moisture into the potting medium, be sure the pot is on the gravel, not in the water.

Overwatering is the quickest way to kill an orchid. In fact, watering (or the lack of it) to me is the easiest part about caring for house orchids. Simply place two or three ice cubes around the plant every 10 days or so and allow them to melt. That's it. For a nutrient boost, use a liquid fertilizer diluted to quarter strength on the weeks between the ice cubes.

If you encounter pest or diseases, consider these options. A light mist of rubbing alcohol once a week will take care of any scale insects. You'll know them because they look like small hard bumps on the leaves or stems. Fungus is a common problem with houseplants, especially when over-watering. To treat, try sprinkling a bit of ordinary cinnamon on the wet infected spots and the crown.

While an orchid's reputation might be considered a little tricky, giving them the ideal environment, along with a bit of time and attention, will provide a great show through winter, and all year long.

Joe Lamp'l is the host and executive producer of Growing a Greener World on national public television, and the founder of The joe gardener® Company, devoted to environmentally responsible gardening and sustainable outdoor living. For more information, go to growingagreenerworld.com.

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Quote File

What people are saying in Southwest Michigan

'M-TEC has been great for us and our students, but the problem is, it's 15 minutes from our main campus.'

– ROBERT HARRISON
President of Lake Michigan College, regarding the sale of M-TEC to Whirlpool Corp.

'You give them a piece of your heart as soon as they enter your home and pee on your floor the first time.'

– DEE APPELMAN
Stevensville resident who trains puppies for Canine Companions for Independence, which prepares dogs to work with people with disabilities

'I was like that once – my gas got turned off, my lights got turned off, and they helped me turn it on.'

– RONNIE BELL
Benton Harbor resident, explaining why he volunteers to be a bell ringer for the Salvation Army

'We came here because we have a lot more (toys) than we need. ... It's nice to give stuff away to people who are in need.'

– GABRIAL PAWLOSKY
13-year-old Benton Harbor resident, on the reason he and his brother donated toys for a giveaway at D&D Trading Post

'Given what's going on, I have asked for his resignation and he has given it to me.'

– JIM POLASHAK
Coloma mayor, who asked embattled county commissioner Bob Wooley to resign from two Coloma-area boards

How to know whether a charity is worth your dollars

By DEAN KARLAN
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

When my sister and I were children and flew to summer camp together, our mother always asked us to call her once we arrived to let her know we landed safely. When we got older, my sister and I put our own twist on this practice: If my sister was giving me a lift to the airport, she had to call me when she arrived back home to let me know that her drive ended safely.

Why? A passenger is 100 times more likely to die in a car than a plane per mile traveled. However, many more people are afraid of flying than they are of driving. Our tendency to make decisions based on easily recalled examples is called "availability bias," and it can lead us to make poor decisions.

This same bias comes into play when people consider giving to charity. Headlines of charities gone bad instill too much fear in donors. Because I study charities, people often ask me about such waste. A survey of individuals with high net worth found that the most common reason they did not give more to charity was the fear "my gift will not be used wisely." When charitable waste hits the news, it often goes viral quickly: Relatively recent exposes on "Three Cups of Tea" author Greg Mortenson and Hurricane Sandy relief efforts come to mind.

Are charities systematically spending wastefully, or is this another example of availability bias?

Some people turn to an organization's tax returns for guidance. The Internal Revenue Service requires charities to break down their spending into three categories: management expenses, fundraising expenses and program services. By doing so, a nonprofit reveals its "overhead ratio," the percentage of expenses devoted to management and fundraising costs. This is useful for weeding out potentially fraudulent charities, but nothing more.

Recently, I analyzed tax returns of nonprofits with more than $1 million in revenue, almost 55,000 organizations. Together, they account for 94 percent of donations to public charities. Merely 2.5 percent of these organizations had an overhead ratio greater than 50 percent, meaning that they spend more on administrative costs than they do their actual work. Only 1 percent of total contributions by the public were lost by giving to these "bad" charities.

Despite the headlines that stick with us, the numbers reveal that fraud in charities is not rampant.

But avoiding giving to potentially fraudulent organizations is not the same as donating effectively. The tax data reveal almost nothing about whether a charity is effective. What we should be looking for is the impact a charity is having, and those numbers are often less accessible or nonexistent. An organization I founded, Innovations for Poverty Action, uses the same methodology as scientific studies – randomized controlled trials – to determine how effective a particular program is in actually helping people. The results show that some programs work quite well, making a huge difference in people's lives. However, sifting through the evidence and assessing effectiveness is difficult. So is there a good way to figure out which charity to give to?

Don't spend too much time worrying about charitable waste. There are a handful of truly wasteful or fraudulent charities out there, but a quick search on the GuideStar or Charity Navigator websites for financial information on nonprofits can help weed out those.

First, don't spend too much time worrying about charitable waste. There are a handful of truly wasteful or fraudulent charities out there, but a quick search on the GuideStar or Charity Navigator websites for financial information on nonprofits can help weed out those. Set the bar fairly high for administrative costs, perhaps 30 percent, before scratching a charity off your list. If overhead spending is cut too much, it may make a charity less effective if the capacity to recruit talent or make evidence-based decisions has been compromised.

Second, think about a charity's impact. Is the organization actually running the best program to achieve its mission? This is not easy to deduce: There's no magic number that gauges positive effect. Charity evaluators such as GiveWell and the Life You Can Save can do the work for you by analyzing the research and data on the impact of international charities. Those two organizations focus on international work because of their emphasis on cost-effective approaches: Simply put, you can typically do more good with each dollar when working where problems are worse. The Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy provides a similar list for charities working in the U.S.

If you want to analyze a charity's impact on your own, consider two questions: Does the charity base its programs on ideas with strong evidence behind them? And does it generate appropriate data and evidence regarding its operations? Check out the charity's website, read its annual report and examine whether its claims of effect are backed by evidence. Ask yourself: Did they merely tell me some good stories here, or are they putting forward actual (and ideally, independent) evidence? Ultimately, effect – not costs spent on overhead – is what matters.

Dean Karlan is a professor of economics at Yale University and founder of the nonprofit Innovations for Poverty Action, which looks for and promotes cost-effective solutions to poverty.

Isaac Newton: Man of the millennium

Fifteen years into the new millennium, perhaps it's time to acknowledge the person who had the greatest impact on the old one. That would be Isaac Newton, born on Christmas Day in 1642 (Julian calendar). Science and religion being two phenomena that have greatly affected our history, it seems fitting that our greatest scientist was born on the same date that we celebrate the birthday of the Christian world's greatest religious figure.

Bruce Kauffmann
History Lesson

Briefly, Newton's legacy comprises the following: He built the first reflecting telescope (its type is still used in observatories today). He did pioneer work in the field of optics (behavior and properties of light) and analytical geometry. Together with Gottfried Leibniz, he invented integral calculus (earning the everlasting hatred of high school math students everywhere), which is the foundation of modern scientific theory. And building on the work of the great Galileo with respect to celestial mechanics – how planets move – he paved new ground in the field of classical mechanics – how material objects move. Thus he gave us four "laws" of motion, including the first (inert objects remain inert unless acted upon by force), the second (how objects move when subjected to exterior forces), the third (for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction), and the famous fourth (gravity).

Then he got serious. He, and the army of followers who put his ideas into practice, showed us how to solve actual scientific problems.

Here we come to the crux of Newton's historic importance. Before him, science was deemed an idle diversion; it was a smorgasbord of theories, isolated facts and magic tricks – capable of describing certain phenomena, but mostly unable to apply what was learned in ways that caused tangible progress and therefore benefited humanity. Newton changed that. He left the world with a system of scientific laws that helped us interact with nature. He made science a science.

Newton's effect on history is summed up very easily. In the four centuries before him, humans lived much the same as they had always lived. Fire still provided heat and light, horseback and the sailing ship were the primary transportation, farming was the main occupation. But in the four centuries after Newton, progress hit warp speed so that today we eat, sleep, work, play, travel, communicate and live completely differently.

Someone once said that science reduces the number of unexplained occurrences we can blame on God. Born on Christmas day, Isaac Newton has absolved God of more blame than anyone before him or since – and don't think God doesn't appreciate it. Or as the poet Alexander Pope nicely put it:

Nature and nature's laws lay hid in night.
God said "Let Newton be" and all was light.

Columnist Bruce G. Kauffmann lives in Alexandria, Va. His email is: bruce@historylessons.net

2014 was a great year for despots and tyrants

We all have tasks we try to get done before the end of the year, and Kim Jong Un's is amping up the crazy. Last December, the North Korean despot approved the execution of his uncle for allegedly plotting against him. This December, his agents hacked Sony Pictures computers over a comedy depicting his assassination.

Steve Chapman

It's enough to make you forget what he does to his real enemies: the people of North Korea. In February, a United Nations task force found his "crimes against humanity" to be "without any parallel in the contemporary world."

But he did have serious rivals for that honor in 2014. One of them is the self-proclaimed Islamic State, a radical organization (also known as ISIL and ISIS) that proclaimed a caliphate in territory spanning large swaths of Syria and Iraq. Beheading American journalists was only its most visible atrocity. "The array of violations and abuses perpetrated by ISIL and associated armed groups is staggering," said Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights.

The group managed the nearly impossible feat of worsening the human rights environment in Syria. During the civil war, said Human Rights Watch, dictator Bashar Assad has subjected "tens of thousands of people to arbitrary arrests, unlawful detentions, enforced disappearances, ill-treatment, and torture." He also used poison gas against rebels in 2013 and apparently again this year.

Autocracy showed staying power in conspicuous places. Russia's Vladimir Putin hosted the Winter Olympics, seized Crimea from Ukraine and launched a crackdown on dissent unparalleled in his country since Soviet days.

The World Internet Conference somehow chose to convene in China, whose government blocks thousands of websites. In response to protests in Hong Kong, Beijing set a record for the number of social media posts it deleted.

Religious extremism fared well in many places. In Nigeria, the Islamist group Boko Haram – whose name means "Western education is sinful" – kidnapped more than 200 schoolgirls, who have not yet been recovered.

Pakistan's Taliban massacred 145 people, including 132 children, at a school in Peshawar, the country's worst terrorist attack. Jihadi militias in Libya captured Tripoli, forcing the elected Parliament to flee the capital.

That was just one reason enemies of the Arab Spring were cheering. Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was acquitted for his role in the killing of 239 protesters before the 2011 revolution. The military regime that overturned that revolution took measures to stamp out protests and shut down independent civic organizations. The lone success in the region was Tunisia, where secularist parties won national elections and the presidency and Islamists accepted defeat.

Botswana, the only African nation to have consistently held free elections ever since gaining independence, had another one. Violent demonstrations in Burkina Faso forced the resignation of Blaise Compaore, who took power in a military coup in 1987. He had been in power even longer than 90-year-old Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, who carried out a mass purge of his government, apparently to ensure that his wife will someday succeed him.

A U.S. Senate committee exposed the CIA's record of subjecting suspected terrorists to waterboarding, sleep deprivation, "rectal feeding" and other barbarities. But the Obama administration ignored a treaty signed by Ronald Reagan requiring prosecution of those who engage in torture. The only CIA employee involved in the program who has gone to prison is the one who exposed it.

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, a former leftist guerrilla who was tortured in prison during the 1970s, wept upon receiving the report of the National Truth Commission about the military junta that was in charge then. Two former Chilean air force officers were sent to prison for the fatal 1974 torture of Alberto Bachelet, whose daughter, Michelle, is now president.

Americans and Cubans who thought they would have to wait for the death of Fidel Castro for normal relations and more commerce saw them happen during his lifetime. The day after announcing the change, President Barack Obama imposed sanctions on Cuba's closest ally, Venezuela, for human rights violations against protesters, some of whom were killed.

Venezuela's was just one of the governments that felt beset by dangers requiring brutal methods of self-defense. But there and in many other places, many of the worst dangers are posed by those in power.

Steve Chapman is a columnist for The Chicago Tribune.

Court: LAPD impound policy for cars OK

By TAMI ABDOLLAH
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A state court determined Friday that a Los Angeles Police Department policy that makes it easier for unlicensed drivers to keep their cars instead of having them impounded after police stops is lawful and can remain in place.

The policy has been supported by the city attorney and immigrant rights groups, who said the old impound policy was unfair to immigrants who cannot obtain a driver's license.

The 13-page ruling by California's 2nd District Court of Appeal found that the policy is "within the wide discretion of the police chief" and that challengers of the policy – a taxpayer and the police union – lacked the legal standing, or ability to demonstrate sufficient connection to or harm from the law, in this case because the policy isn't wasteful or illegal.

"Here, Special Order 7 implements state law; it does not create a new law. Use of police resources to enforce the Vehicle Code does not constitute waste," the ruling states.

Los Angeles Police Department Chief Charlie Beck issued the directive, which went into effect in 2012, allowing some unlicensed drivers who are stopped to produce a vehicle's registration and proof of insurance to avoid having their cars impounded for 30 days.

After Special Order 7 was implemented, the number of vehicles impounded in Los Angeles decreased from 28,796 in 2011 to 16,242 in 2012, court documents state.

The Los Angeles Police Department said Friday that the department was pleased by the court's decision allowing it to provide direction to its officers on the issue. "Maintaining the public's trust is improved when the communities we serve believe the actions of our officers are fair, consistent and constitutional in each neighborhood of the city," the department said.

Attorney Richard Levine, who represented the Los Angeles Police Protective League in the case, said the union was disappointed by the ruling reversing the trial court's finding. Levine said the union would be evaluating various legal options in the next weeks after taking the time for attorneys and the board to fully examine the ruling. Options include filing a petition for review with the California Supreme Court or seeking a rehearing in the Court of Appeal, he said.

The Los Angeles Police Protective League, which represents more than 9,900 sworn Los Angeles police officers, sued in 2012, arguing the policy subjected officers to "professional and legal conflict, as well as civil liabilities" when enforcing uniform impoundment regulations.

Obituaries

Marie Jenkins

Marie Jenkins, 95, of Benton Harbor died on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2014, at Royalton Manor.

JENKINS

Services celebrating her life will be on at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 29 at Hopewell Baptist Church, 756 Highland Ave., Benton Harbor. Burial will follow at North Shore Memory Gardens in Hagar Shores. Visitation with the family will take place at the church one hour prior to the service. Memorials may be made to the Hopewell Baptist Church. Arrangements are being handled by the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service. Please share memories, messages or photos at www.florin.net.

Marie was born April 4, 1919, in Jacksonville, Fla., to Major Buddy and Maggie (Nunn) Lee. She moved to this area in 1951. She married O. B. Jenkins and he preceded her in death on Oct. 13, 1983. Marie worked at Coloma Frozen Foods for several years before retiring in 1989. She was a member of the Hopewell Baptist Church.

She is survived by her children: Leila (Smith) Blackwell of Ypsilanti, Jimmy (Yvonne) Jenkins of Mingo Junction, Ohio, Helen (Charles) Johnson, George (Patty) Jenkins, and Janice (Alvin) Pargo of Benton Harbor; 10 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; sister, Mary Irene Lee of Columbia, S.C.; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Donna Mae 'Meemaw' Evans

Donna Mae "Meemaw" Evans, of Highlands, Texas, formerly from Malvern, Ark., and Michigan, celebrated Christmas in heaven with Jesus. She passed away peacefully Dec. 23, 2014. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold L. Evans, her parents and all of her brothers and sisters.

EVANS

She is survived by her five children and their families: Sheri L. Bromley of Hartford, John C. Coburn of Vicksburg, Gregory L. Evans of Highlands, Douglas R. Evans of Baytown, Texas, and William D. (Danny) Evans of Crosby, Texas; her eighteen grandchildren: Marie, Mandi, Mike, Shannon, William, Daniel, Kathleen, April, Courtney, Shane, Lori, Jonathan, Briana, Sygnett, Mark, Pamela, Tiffany and Colton; her 21 great-grandchildren; her two dear friends: Barbara May and Miriam Griffin; and her many wonderful friends from St. Jude's Catholic Daughters and St. Jude's Dudes.

Donna will be lovingly remembered for all of the songs she sang and the love she gave to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was strongly devoted to her Catholic faith, her prayer time, and her church. For pastimes she loved to play bingo, do crossword puzzles, travel to Michigan and Arkansas to visit her loved ones, and take an occasional trip to the casino.

Visitation for family and friends will be held at Sterling-White on Monday, Dec. 29, from 5-8 p.m. with a rosary at 7 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30 at St. Jude's Catholic Church in Highlands. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to St. Jude's Catholic Daughters, 800 S. Main St., Highlands, Texas 77562. A small memorial in Michigan will be held at a later date. To send the family condolences please visit www.sterlingwhite.com.

Evelyn M. Riedl

Evelyn Marya Riedl, 97 of Sawyer passed away on Thursday, Dec. 25, 2014, at her son's home.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, at St. Agnes Catholic Church, Sawyer, with Father Don Suberlak, C.R., as Celebrant. Visitation will be held Monday, Dec. 29, from 6-8 p.m. at Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, 9191 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman. Burial will take place at the Bohemian National Cemetery in Chicago. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Southwestern Medical Clinic, 5515 Cleveland Ave., Stevensville, MI 49127. Online condolences accepted at www.PikeFH.com.

Evelyn was born Sept. 20, 1917, in Chicago, the daughter of the late Joseph and Barbara (Jaros) Tabor. On June 1, 1937, she married Henry Riedl and he preceded her in death on Feb. 15, 1994. A lifelong resident of Riverside, Ill., she was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and, while in Michigan with her son, attended St. Agnes Catholic Church.

Survivors include a son, John Riedl of Sawyer; two grandsons: Henry and Mark; and five great-grandchildren.

Evelyn was also preceded in death by a son, Henry, and a brother.

Clyde William Colman

Clyde William Colman, 86, of Berrien Springs, died peacefully at Hanson Hospice Center in Stevensville, Dec. 25, 2014.

Clyde was born May 3, 1928, in Hartford, to Frank and Frances Colman and was the last survivor of six siblings: Robert, Jim, and Frank (Bud) Colman, Mabel Nelson, Joan Treat and Margaret Martens. Clyde married Gail Clover on Nov. 9, 1952, in Hartford, and they had three children: Roger (Mara) Colman of Grand Rapids, Carol (Mark) Wiltse of Dublin, Ohio, and Robert (Nicki) Colman of Midland, Mich. Clyde loved and was proud of seven beautiful grandchildren: Ryan, Sara, Matthew, Jennifer, Caleb, Madeleine, Katya, and five great-grandchildren.

COLMAN

Clyde was proud to serve in the United States Army from 1946-1947. He was the director of operations with the Benton Harbor Schools from 1961-1982. He retired from the Niles school district as coordinator of support services in 1988 after six years. He was a member of the Berrien Center Bible Church and a life member of Masonic Lodge. An avid University of Michigan fan, he attended countless games and special events since the 1950s. Clyde baked over 90 pounds of fudge for family, friends and co-workers every Christmas. He had a love for the game of golf, and for a number of years, he enjoyed being a marshal at the Memorial Golf Tournament in Dublin, Ohio. He will be remembered for his love of family, camping, taking photos at every special event and his endless dry sense of humor.

A memorial service will be at noon Monday, Dec. 29, at Berrien Center Bible Church, where friends may visit with the family beginning at 11 a.m. Memorials may be made to Berrien Center Bible Church, or to the Berrien Springs Varsity Boys Baseball Club. Online messages for the family may be left at www.allredfuneralhome.com.

Virginia Edwards

Virginia Edwards, 89, of Benton Harbor passed away Dec. 20, 2014, at New Orchard Grove Extended Care Center, Benton Harbor. A service celebrating her life will be held Tuesday, Dec. 30, at the New Bethel Baptist Church. The visitation begins at 10 a.m., followed by the funeral at 11 a.m. Those wishing to sign the guest book online may do so at www.familyfuneralhomebh.org.

EDWARDS

Virginia was born April 7, 1925, in Hammond, La., and was married to Willie Edwards Jr., 62 years prior to his death in 2007. Virginia loved gardening, sewing, serving as president of the Mother's Board at New Covenant Baptist Church, helping all children in need through foster care and as an adoptive parent. Most of all she loved being surrounded by her children, friends and family and sharing her excellent home-cooked meals.

Virginia is survived by her children: Glory Edwards, Mary Ann (Carl) Mitchell, Sandra Edwards, Gwendolyn (Darrell) Allen, Steve (Tara) Edwards and Michael (Kathy) Edwards; adopted children: Willie, James, William, Coleman and Keisha; sisters: Lula, Rosetta and Alice and Martha; brothers: Theodore and Raymond; 11 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Virginia was preceded in death by her husband, parents, children: Catherine Edwards and Vernon Edwards; sisters Mayella, Doretta and Aree; and brothers Oscar and Weldon.

Ruth Mae Wambaugh

Ruth Mae Wambaugh, 88, of St. Joseph passed away Thursday, Dec. 25, 2014, at Hanson Hospice Center in Stevensville.

WAMBAUGH

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, at Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Service, 2650 Niles Road, St. Joseph, with Pastor Richard Hennig officiating. Friends may visit with the family from 1-2 p.m. prior to the service at the funeral home. Inurnment will be held at Riverview Cemetery at a later date. Memorials may be made to Children's Hospital of Michigan Cardiovascular Surgery Department, Hospice at Home, or St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. Those wishing to share a memory of Ruth may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Ruth was born Sept. 5, 1926, in Keeler, Township, to Kenneth and Irene (Fruzen) Brownell. She married Floyd Wambaugh on June 8, 1946, in St. Joseph. Ruth was a wonderful homemaker for her husband and daughter, Susan, for many years. She also worked at V-M and Cooper Wells Assembly in St. Joseph. Ruth was a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and involved in their Ladies Aid group. She enjoyed taking camping trips with her husband and going out to dinner with her family and friends.

Ruth is survived by her husband, Floyd of 68 years of marriage; daughter, Susan and Larry Engler of St. Joseph; and granddaughter, Emily Engler of Mishawaka; siblings: Doris Glenn, Lowell Brownell, June Dings, Dorothy Pullano, Roy Brownell and Eleanor Lambrecht.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, siblings: Ray Brownell, Kenneth Brownell and Jean "Billy" Head and was also reunited with her grandson, Stephen Milnikel, in heaven on his 37th birthday.

Barbara A. Arends

Barbara A. Arends, 76, of Glenn, passed away Thursday, Dec, 25, 2014, at her home under Hospice care. She was born Feb. 9, 1938, to James and Frances (Niffenegger) Steele in South Haven. She married John Arends on Jan. 27, 1977. Barb managed a convenience store in Glenn for many years. Both Barb and John enjoyed gardening and selling apples in the fall. She also enjoyed spending time with her dear dog, Maggie. The two of them spent many hours riding around the farm on her golf car. If Barb had company over when it was time for one of Maggie's runs, she would be sure to invite them along. Even though Barb didn't travel far from her home, she had many close friends and neighbors that she would visit with. She always had a smile to share or story to tell.

ARENDS

She is preceded in death, along with her parents, by her husband, John Arends, and son James Bodfish.

Barbara is survived by her children: Marsha (Will) Lewis of Holland, Greg (Shelley) Bodfish, both of South Haven; daughter-in-law, Michele Bodfish of Alabama; three grandchildren: Greg, Dustin, and Perry (Reanna) Bodfish; three sisters: Janet (Cortland) Hillman of Caro, Mich., Nancy Asche of South Haven, and Linda (Richard) Henry of Bangor.

Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, and from noon-2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, at the Filbrandt Family Funeral Home of South Haven. Funeral Services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, at the funeral home, with Pastor Harold Filbrandt officiating. Barbara will be laid to rest in McDowell Cemetery in Casco Township. Contributions may be made in Barbara's memory to South Haven's Hospice at Home or to your favorite charity. Kindly share your thoughts and memories on the family's online guestbook at www.FilbrandtFFH.com.

The family is being helped by the Filbrandt Family Funeral Home of South Haven.

Death notices

Barbara A. Arends, 76, of Glenn died Dec. 25, 2014, at her home under Hospice care. Filbrandt Family Funeral Home, South Haven, 637-0333.

Kimberlee Ballay, 53, of Lawrence died Dec. 23, 2014. Betzler & Thompson Life Story Funeral Homes, Paw Paw, 657-3870 (800-822-7594).

Clyde William Colman, 86, of Berrien Springs died Dec. 25, 2014, at Hanson Hospice Center in Stevensville. Allred Funeral Home, Berrien Springs, 471-3729.

George A. Copeland, 69, died Dec. 25, 2014, at Lakeland Medical Center. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Virginia Edwards, 89, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 20, 2014, at New Orchard Grove Extended Care Center, Benton Harbor. Family Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 925-9761.

Aviana Rukia Hurd, of Stevensville, was still born Thursday, Dec. 25, 2014, at Lakeland Hospital. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Barbara J. Kimmerly, 76, of St. Joseph died Dec. 25, 2014, at Pine Ridge Nursing Home in Lincoln Township. Dey-Florin Chapel, Florin Funeral Service, St. Joseph, 983-1514.

Donna Mae "Meemaw" Evans, of Highlands, Texas, formerly from Arkansas and Michigan, died Dec. 23, 2014. Sterling-White Funeral Home & Cemetery,

Texas. 281-426-3555

Arthur Lee Moyer, 90, died Dec. 10, 2014, in Florida. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Evelyn Marya Riedl, 97, of Sawyer died Dec. 25, 2014, at her son's home. Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, Bridgman, 465-3239 (866-269-3866).

Ann (Letke) Schermer, 99, of St. Joseph died Dec. 25, 2014, at The Willows Assisted Living. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

John Siskninetz, 86, of Decatur died Dec. 24, 2014, in the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. Newell Funeral Home, Decatur, 423-2561.

Sheila Kay Smeidendorf, 60, of Niles Dec. 26, 2014. at her home. Halbritter Funeral Home, Niles, 683-3000.

Ruth Mae Wambaugh, 88, of St. Joseph died Dec. 25, 2014, at Hanson Hospice Center in Stevensville. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Debbie (Magallanes) Weigel, 62, of Lawton died Dec. 21, 2014.

Betzler & Thompson Life Story Funeral Homes, Paw Paw, 657-3870 (800-822-7594).

Pregnant woman taken off life support in Ireland

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — A brain-dead pregnant woman was taken off life support Friday after a court ruled that her 18-week-old fetus was doomed to die – a case that exposed fear and confusion among doctors over how to apply Ireland's strict ban on abortion in an age of medical innovation.

The three-judge Dublin High Court said that all artificial support for the woman should end more than three weeks after she was declared clinically dead. Her relatives gathered at a hospital in the Irish Midlands to bid farewell to the unidentified woman, who was in her late 20s and had two young children.

In their 29-page ruling, the judges accepted testimony from seven doctors who said the fetus couldn't survive for the extra two months of development needed to be delivered safely. The doctors detailed how the woman's body was becoming a lethal environment rife with infections, fungal growths, fever and high blood pressure.

The nation's Supreme Court was put on standby for an appeal, given the constitutional questions at stake. But lawyers representing the rights of the woman and of the fetus said they accepted the ruling from the country's second-highest court.

Ireland has the strictest abortion ban in Europe, a reflection of the country's heavily Roman Catholic population. But Dublin's archbishop had suggested before the decision came down that he would have no objection to removing life support.

The woman suffered irreversible brain death on Dec. 3, four days after sustaining a severe head injury in a fall. She had already been hospitalized after doctors found a cyst in her brain.

Getting it straight

The Herald-Palladium makes every effort to ensure accuracy in its stories.

If you think there is an error, please contact the editor of the page on which it occurred. If you are unsure of whom to contact, call Assistant Local News Editor Jim Dalgleish at 429-1293.

Do you remember?

25 years ago – 1989

On the eve of the Zenith computer group's sale to Groupe Bull, Zenith's Heath Co. plant in St. Joseph has shut down, idling about 600 production workers for the week, a union official said this morning. The three-day shutdown will close the plant's 1989 financial books in anticipation of the estimated $605 million sale to Groupe Bull.

35 years ago – 1979

Mrs. Ruthie Kirby was sworn in Wednesday by Benton Harbor City Clerk-Assessor John Lottridge as Second Ward Benton Harbor city commissioner. She is the only new member of the commission, as four incumbents won re-election. Mrs. Kirby replaces Tommie Parks, who did not seek re-election.

The city of Benton Harbor's financial picture appeared to brighten Wednesday night with the announcement that the city will receive $510,000 in state revenue-sharing funds within a week and a half.

50 years ago – 1964

A once-in-a-lifetime trip to the 1965 Rose Bowl game as a member of the University of Michigan marching band is now occupying the time of Russell Jennings of Lawrence and Donald Jobe of Watervliet. Although they are glad to be home for Christmas this year, they would have passed it up if the Rose Bowl schedule demanded it. After all, Christmas comes once a year, but a chance to go to the Rose Bowl comes once in a lifetime.

Today in history

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Saturday, Dec. 27, the 361st day of 2014. There are four days left in the year.

Highlight in History:

On Dec. 27, 1964, the Cleveland Browns defeated the Baltimore Colts 27-0 to win the NFL Championship Game played at Cleveland Municipal Stadium.

On this date:

In 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a round-the-world voyage aboard the HMS Beagle.

In 1927, the musical play "Show Boat," with music by Jerome Kern and libretto by Oscar Hammerstein II, opened at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York.

In 1945, 28 nations signed an agreement creating the World Bank.

In 1949, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands signed an act recognizing Indonesia's sovereignty after more than three centuries of Dutch rule.

In 1979, Soviet forces seized control of Afghanistan. President Hafizullah Amin, who was overthrown and executed, was replaced by Babrak Karmal.

In 1985, American naturalist Dian Fossey, 53, who had studied gorillas in the wild in Rwanda, was found hacked to death.

In 1994, four Roman Catholic priests were shot to death in their rectory in Algiers, a day after French commandos killed four radicals who'd hijacked an Air France jet from Algiers to Marseille.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Rain Likely	Rain/Snow	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Snow Possible	Partly Cloudy
47º	31º	34º / 28º	32º / 23º	26º / 16º	24º / 18º

Local Outlook

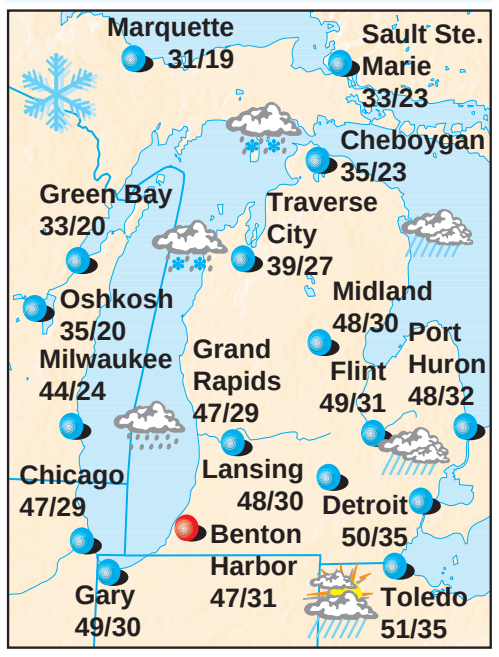
Today we will see cloudy skies with a 60% chance of rain, high temperature of 47º, humidity of 81%. South wind 15 mph. Expect cloudy skies tonight with a 50% chance of rain and snow, overnight low of 31º. Northwest wind 15 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise . . . . . 8:13 a.m.
Sunset . . . . . 5:21 p.m.
Moonrise. . . . . 11:54 a.m.
Moonset . . . . . Next Day

First	Full	Last	New
12/28	1/4	1/13	1/20

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor yesterday

Temperature

High	51º
Low	35º
Normal High	32º
Normal Low	20º
Record High	58º in 1982
Record Low	-2º in 1983

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	1.40"
Normal month to date	2.31"
Year to date	26.51"
Normal year to date	36.64"

Air Quality

Yesterday..... 24
Main Offender.....Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50.....Good
51-100.....Moderate
101-150....Sensitive
151-200..Unhealthy

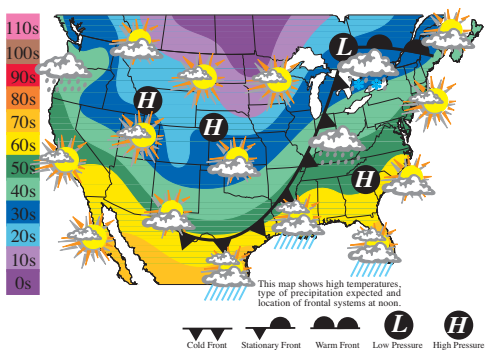
Weather Trivia

Is there a difference between a frost and a hard freeze?

Answer: A hard freeze is when the temperature is 26 degrees or less for four hours. It does not need to be this

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Dec. 27, 2014



Lake Michigan

Today, south winds 10 to 20 kt becoming west 15 to 25 kt in the afternoon. Showers likely in the morning. Waves 3 to 5 ft occasionally to 7 ft. Water temperature 35 degrees.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Expect cloudy skies today with scattered snow, highs in the low 30s. North wind 10 to 15 mph. Sunday, skies will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated snow. Northwest wind 10 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today we will see cloudy skies with scattered rain, highs in the upper 40s. South southwest wind 9 to 16 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies Sunday with highs in the mid-30s. West wind 7 to 9 mph.

IRA veteran arrested after Irish wife stabbed

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
Associated Press

DUBLIN — Detectives interrogated a prominent Irish Republican Army veteran Friday on suspicion of stabbing his wife several times on Christmas Eve, an attack condemned by the IRA-linked Sinn Fein party.

Police said Pearse McCauley tried to flee after they arrived at his family's rural home in County Cavan, northwest of Dublin, on Wednesday to find his wife bleeding from a deep chest wound and the couple's two young children nearby.

Pauline Tully McCauley was reported in stable condition after treatment for a collapsed lung. The high school teacher, who served as a Sinn Fein politician on Cavan's council from 1999 to 2012, married McCauley in 2003 months after meeting him while he was still imprisoned. Irish authorities permitted him a brief furlough for their wedding.

Pearse McCauley twice has featured in front-page news for IRA actions. In 1991, he and a comrade, Nessan Quinlivan, were imprisoned in London while awaiting trial for possessing explosives and conspiring to kill a top British brewing magnate. He and Quinlivan escaped by shooting their way past guards using a smuggled handgun that had been hidden in a sports shoe.

McCauley fled to Ireland and in 1996 was part of an IRA unit that ambushed a cash-filled van in County Limerick, southwest Ireland. IRA members shot both police escorts at close range, killing one and critically wounding the other.

McCauley and three other IRA men were charged with murder and faced potential life sentences, but witnesses withdrew testimony citing fear of IRA attack. The four men instead pleaded guilty to manslaughter in 1999.

Sinn Fein spent a decade lobbying the Irish government for accelerated paroles for the four men. McCauley walked free in 2009 after serving 10 years of a 14-year sentence.

RUSSIA

From page A1

Russia has relied heavily on its nuclear deterrent and lagged far behind the U.S. and its NATO allies in the development of precision conventional weapons. However, it has recently sped up its military modernization, buying large numbers of new weapons and boosting military drills. It has also sharply increased air patrols over the Baltics.

Earlier this month, Russia flexed its muscle by airlifting state-of-the art Iskander missiles to its westernmost Kaliningrad exclave bordering NATO members Poland and Lithuania. The missiles were pulled back to their home base after the drills, but the deployment clearly served as a demonstration of the military's readiness to quickly raise the ante in a crisis.

Russia has threatened to permanently station the Iskander missiles, which can hit targets up to 480 kilometers (about 300 miles) away with high precision, in retaliation for U.S.-led NATO's missile defense plans. The Iskander can be fitted with a nuclear or conventional warhead.

On Friday, Moscow successfully test-fired the RS-24 Yars intercontinental ballistic missile from the Plesetsk launchpad in northwestern Russia.

The 29-page doctrine outlines top threats to Russia's security and possible responses. It is the document's third edition since Putin was first elected in 2000.

The doctrine places "a buildup of NATO military potential and its empowerment with global functions implemented in violation of international law, the expansion of NATO's military infrastructure to the Russian borders" atop the list of military threats to Russia.

It stresses that the deployment of foreign military forces on the territory of Russia's neighbors could be used for "political and military pressure."

NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu responded by saying in a statement that the alliance "poses no threat to Russia or to any nation."

"Any steps taken by NATO to ensure the security of its members are clearly defensive in nature, proportionate and in compliance with international law," she said. "In fact, it is Russia's actions, including currently in Ukraine, which are breaking international law and undermining European security."

Russia's relations with the West have plummeted to their lowest level since Cold War times, and NATO cut off ties to Moscow after it annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in March. Ukraine and the West have also accused Moscow of fueling the pro-Russia insurgency in eastern Ukraine with troops and weapons, accusations the Kremlin has denied.

In 2010, NATO adopted its current so-called Strategic Concept. Without specifying which countries might be on the receiving end, the document states that "deterrence, based on an appropriate mix of nuclear and conventional capabilities, remains a core element" of NATO's overall strategy.

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who had been critical of Putin in the past but has strongly backed the Kremlin in its dispute with the West, said Friday that Russia's actions were a response to U.S. and NATO moves.

"I think the president is right to a large extent when he draws attention to a particular responsibility of the United States," he said in Moscow.

The U.S. and the European Union have slapped sanctions against Moscow, which have deepened Russia's economic woes and contributed to a sharp devaluation of the ruble, which lost about half its value this year.

The economic crisis could challenge Russia's ambitious weapons modernization program, but so far the Kremlin has shown no intention of scaling back.

The program envisages the deployment of new nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles, the construction of nuclear submarines and a sweeping modernization of Russia's conventional arsenals.

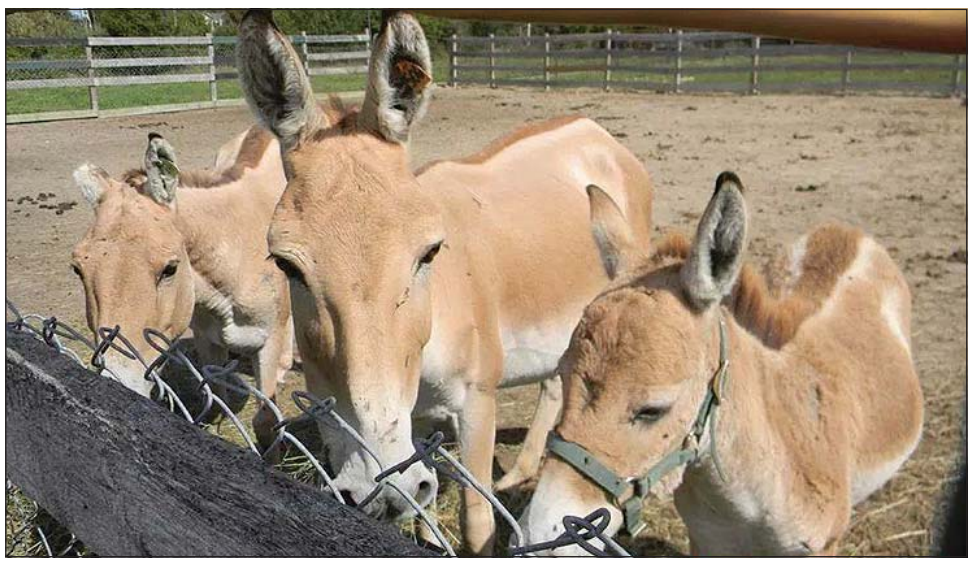
Russia has been particularly concerned about the so-called Prompt Global Strike program under development in the U.S., which would be capable of striking targets anywhere in the world in as little as an hour with deadly precision.

The new doctrine mentioned the U.S. program as a major destabilizing factor along with NATO missile defense plans.

Russian officials have said that Moscow is working on a response to the new U.S. weapons, but have released no details.

Alexander Konovalov, a Moscow-based independent military expert, said the doctrine's mention of using precision conventional weapons as a "strategic deterrent" sounds vague, but could be a reference to new weapons.

"It may mean the development of weapons systems, which would make it impossible for NATO to plan a surprise first strike, because it would draw a powerful retaliation," he said. "It would allow (Russia) to enforce its will on the enemy without using nuclear warheads."



Photos submitted

Formerly part of the Deer Forest park, these three wild Mongolian asses remain available for adoption.

DEER FOREST

From page A1

But the money raised to buy and care for the animals has run out.

"We're in dire need of funds," LoPresti said. "We're in the red."

Lizabeth TerMeer, who runs Blessings Animal Farm, said the group owes her $500. TerMeer said it costs almost $600 a month to feed the remaining animals.

"It's a huge financial burden, which I didn't expect," she said.

TerMeer had hoped all the animals would have been adopted out by now. But they've run into a snag with the three Mongolian wild asses. Several zoos have shown interest in buying them, but they need to know their genetic makeup, first.

"There's such a small gene pool of them because they're so critically endangered," TerMeer said.

Money must be raised to test them.

Finding a home for the mother-daughter Belgian horses also has proven difficult.

TerMeer said they have received several calls from interested parties, but no one with the knowledge and funds to do it properly. The Belgians eat two bales of hay and 10 pounds of grain every day. And because of their large size, they can be more difficult to handle than regular horses.

"It has to be somebody who has experience with draft horses," she said.

People interested in adopting any of the remaining animals or in donating money towards their care until they are adopted can call TerMeer at 468-3289. Information can also be found on their Facebook page, Deer Forest Animal Refugees.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

Mondo, an iguana, was adopted by a zookeeper at Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend.

hp SPORTS

Pistons break 4-game losing skid
Page B2

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Jody Warner / HP correspondent

Benton Harbor's Curtis Dawson drives the lane against New Buffalo's Travis Maddux during the second game of the Earl McZZZ-Kee Holiday Basketball Tournament at Benton Harbor High School on Friday.

Make it quick

Jody Warner / HP correspondent

Bridgman's Nick Knowlton takes a fading jumper as Paw Paw's Collin Siwula defends during the first game of the tournament.

Benton Harbor rolls past New Buffalo in Holiday Tournament; Paw Paw beats Bridgman

By BEN SANDERS
HP Sports Writer

BENTON HARBOR — Benton Harbor's boys basketball team quickly showed that it was too quick for New Buffalo on Friday.

The host Tigers defeated the Bison 85-28 in the opening round of the Earl McKee Holiday Tournament.

Benton Harbor (4-0) will play Paw Paw (4-1) at 8 p.m. tonight in the championship game.

Paw Paw advanced with a 59-44 victory over Bridgman (3-2). The Bees will take on New Buffalo (1-3) at 6 p.m. in the consolation game.

Benton Harbor dominated with its pressure defense, building a 30-4 lead after just one quarter. The Tigers led 50-8 at halftime, and the second half was played with a running clock.

"That's the mindset for every game," said Jaton Gunn, who led Benton Harbor with 20 points. "We're trying to run, run, run. That's our game. Get the rebound and run. Just keep running and running until we get up by 30 or 40. That's our goal every game, no matter who we play."

Curtis Dawson scored 17 points and Malik Hall added 15 for Benton Harbor. The Tigers shared the ball well, with their first 10 points coming on one

See **TOURNEY**, page B2

Potent offenses lead to longer college games

Games average 3:23, up 14 minutes since '08

By ERIC OLSON
AP College Football Writer

Bear Bryant said offense sells tickets, and he was right. College football is enjoying immense popularity in an era of record scoring.

But is there too much of a good thing?

All that scoring caused this season's average length of game to hit 3 hours, 23 minutes in late November, according to the NCAA. That was up from 3:17 last season. Games are, on average, 14 minutes longer than in 2008. By comparison, this season's NFL average is 3:07.

"I think it's trending in the wrong direction, and it is a concern," American Athletic Conference commissioner Mike Aresco said.

Administrators are wary of turning off fans, especially young ones who crave faster action and represent future ticket buyers. They also are mindful of the risk of injury to fatigued players who are on the field longer and for more plays.

The NCAA Football Rules Committee expects to discuss the issue when it meets in February, secretary-rules editor Rogers Redding said.

"The 14-minute increase has been gradual" since 2008, he wrote in an email to The Associated Press, "but the cumulative effect has generated some concern among some stakeholders so that it is probably something that the committee will want to take a look at."

Increasing game lengths prompted rules changes in 2008. One shortened the interval between when the clock stopped and restarted on plays that end out of bounds. Another required the 40-second play clock to start right when the previous play is blown dead.

No changes are imminent for 2015, but a number of ideas have been proposed. They include shortening halftime from 20 to 12 minutes and keeping the game clock running while the chains are moved after first downs. Another idea is to allow the quarterback and one defensive player to have earpieces in their helmets to allow for radio contact with coaches and streamline communication, as in the NFL.

Mid-American Conference commissioner Jon Steinbrecher, who chairs the College Football Officiating Board of Managers, said it's imperative to keep the average game under

See **LONG GAME**, page B3

Rod Aydelotte / Waco Tribune Herald / AP

Baylor place kicker Chris Callahan (40) is lifted up by the team after connecting for the game-winning field goal against TCU on Oct. 11. All that scoring caused this season's average length of game to hit 3 hours, 23 minutes in late November, according to the NCAA.

Packers' Rodgers expected to play Sunday vs. Lions

By TODD McMAHON
Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — James Campen has a unique perspective on home-field advantage.

Campen was the starting center for the Green Bay Packers when they last lost a game to the rival Detroit Lions played in Wisconsin. That was Dec. 15, 1991, at Lambeau Field.

"I can't even remember that far back," Campen said with a laugh Friday.

In his 11th year as a Green Bay assistant, the last eight as offensive line coach, Campen has watched the Packers' home winning streak against the Lions grow to 23 games. Campen also was Green Bay's center in 1992, when the longest home win streak in NFL history against the same opponent started.

Much more than the streak is on the line for the Packers on Sunday.

They are counting on Aaron Rodgers to be ready to go for the regular-season finale against Detroit (11-4) at Lambeau with the NFC North title up for grabs.

Rodgers is listed as probable. He hurt his left calf in the first quarter of Green Bay's lopsided win at Tampa Bay last Sunday but stayed in the game.

Green Bay (11-4) didn't practice Friday after taking the previous day off for Christmas. But the team estimates Rodgers would have been a limited participant

See **PACKERS**, page B3

Brian Blanco / AP

Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers looks for an open receiver during a game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers last Sunday.

Plenty of games to remember in 2014

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

They kept us on the edge of our seats and brought us to our feet.

They sent us into joyful celebration or left us in anguished disbelief.

When we look back at 2014, these are some of the games — not to mention stock car races, tennis finals and golf rounds — we'll remember the most.

IRON MAN BUMGARNER

So much for pitch counts and pampered arms. Madison Bumgarner almost single-handedly pitched the San Francisco Giants to their third World Series title in five years with three masterful performances against the upstart Kansas City Royals. He won the opener with seven innings of one-hit ball and pitched a four-hit shutout with 117 pitches in Game 5. But the drawling left-hander will be remembered most for his performance in Game 7, when he threw five innings of scoreless relief on two days rest for a decisive 3-2 victory. The last of his 68 pitches came with the potential tying run at third, resulting in a series-ending popup. "You know what?" he would say about a half-hour later. "I'm a little tired now."

SHOOTOUT IN SOCHI

T.J. Oshie was one of the last choices to the U.S. Olympic hockey team, but he sure came up big in Sochi. Facing the Russians and their screaming hometown crowd, including President Vladimir Putin, Oshie scored on four out of six chances in a shootout to give the Americans a thrilling 3-2 victory. Oshie scored in the first round and the shootout was still tied after three attempts by each team. At that point, under international rules, the same shooter can be used over and over again. The Americans kept turning to Oshie,

See **2014**, page B3

IN BRIEF

Bears agree to extension with Garza

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — The Chicago Bears have agreed to a one-year contract extension with veteran center Roberto Garza.

Friday's move comes as the Bears are wrapping up one of their most disappointing seasons in recent memory. They are 5-10 heading into Sunday's final game at Minnesota and could be facing some big changes with the status of general manager Phil Emery and coach Marc Trestman.

Despite the uncertainty, Garza says he still wants to "be a part of this team and this organization."

Garza is finishing his 14th season in the NFL and 10th with Chicago. He has made 144 starts with the Bears and 175 in his career.

Garza missed four games this season because of an ankle injury.

Rutgers wins Quick Lane Bowl

DETROIT (AP) — Josh Hicks ran for 202 yards and a touchdown and Rutgers beat North Carolina 40-21 on Friday night in the inaugural Quick Lane Bowl at Ford Field.

Gary Nova threw for 184 yards and two touchdowns, and Robert Martin ran for 100 yards and two scores to help the Scarlet Knights (8-5) cap their first Big Ten season.

Owned and operated by the NFL's Detroit Lions, the bowl replaced the Little Caesar's Pizza Bowl, which had been played in Detroit under various names since 1997.

The announced attendance was 23,876 — smaller than all but one Pizza Bowl — and the actual crowd appeared to be less than half of that.

Rutgers led 40-7 before the Tar Heels (6-7) scored twice in the final 7 minutes.

AIRWAVES

Television today

12:00 p.m. (ESPN2) **College Basketball** Georgetown vs. Indiana. (Live)
(FS1) **College Basketball** Maine at Seton Hall. (Live) CC
1:00 p.m. (Bigten) **College Basketball** UNC-Wilmington at Minnesota. (Live)
(ESPN) **College Football** Military Bowl — Cincinnati vs. Virginia Tech. (Live)
2:00 p.m. 2 3 22 **College Football** Hyundai Sun Bowl — Arizona State vs. Duke. (Live) CC
(ESPN2) **College Basketball** Kentucky at Louisville. (Live)
3:00 p.m. (Bigten) **College Basketball** Northern Kentucky at Northwestern. (Live)
3:30 p.m. 7 13 41 57 **College Football** Duck Commander Independence Bowl — Miami vs. South Carolina. (Live)
4:00 p.m. (ESPN2) **College Basketball** Alabama-Birmingham at North Carolina. (Live)
4:30 p.m. (ESPN) **College Football** New Era Pinstripe Bowl — Boston College vs. Penn State. (Live)
5:00 p.m. (Bigten) **College Basketball** Oakland at Maryland. (Live)
5:15 p.m. 26 **High School Basketball** Beach Ball Classic: Knott County Central (KY) vs. N. Little Rock (AR). (Live)
6:00 p.m. (ESPN2) **College Basketball** Gonzaga at BYU. (Live)
7:00 p.m. 26 **High School Basketball** Beach Ball Classic: Scott County (KY) vs. Shadow Mountain (AZ). (Live)
(Bigten) **College Basketball** Wright State at Ohio State. (Live)
(FoxDetroit) **NHL Hockey** Detroit Red Wings at Ottawa Senators. (Live)
7:30 p.m. (NBCSports) **NHL Hockey** Washington Capitals at Pittsburgh Penguins. (Live)
8:00 p.m. (9B) **NBA Basketball** New Orleans Pelicans at Chicago Bulls. (Live) CC
46 **High School Basketball** City Securities Hall of Fame Classic, Consolation. (Live)
(ESPN) **College Football** National University Holiday Bowl — Nebraska vs. USC. (Live)
8:45 p.m. 26 **High School Basketball** Beach Ball Classic: Bishop Gorman (NV) vs. Socastee (SC). (Live)
9:00 p.m. (Bigten) **College Basketball** Kennesaw State at Illinois. (Live)
(Csnch) **NHL Hockey** Chicago Blackhawks at Colorado Avalanche. (Live)
9:30 p.m. 46 **High School Basketball** City Securities Hall of Fame Classic, Championship. From New Castle, Ind. (Live)
10:00 p.m. (NBCSports) **NHL Hockey** San Jose Sharks at Los Angeles Kings. (Live)

Sunday

7:00 a.m. (NBCSports) **English Premier League Soccer** Tottenham Hotspur FC vs Manchester United FC. (Live)
9:00 a.m. (NBCSports) **English Premier League Soccer** Southampton FC vs Chelsea FC. (Live)
11:15 a.m. (NBCSports) **English Premier League Soccer** Newcastle United FC vs Everton FC. (Live)
12:00 p.m. (FS1) **College Basketball** Tulane at St. John's. (Live) CC
1:00 p.m. 2 3 **NFL Football** San Diego Chargers at Kansas City Chiefs. (Live) CC
17 28 32 **NFL Football** Chicago Bears at Minnesota Vikings. (Live) CC
22 **NFL Football** Indianapolis Colts at Tennessee Titans. (Live) CC
(ESPN) **PBA Bowling** Chameleon Championship. From Las Vegas. (Taped) CC
(ESPN2) **Billiards** Trick Shot Magic. (Taped)
2:00 p.m. (FS1) **College Basketball** Morgan State at Marquette. (Live) CC
4:00 p.m. (Bigten) **Women's College Basketball** Michigan at Wisconsin. (Live)
(ESPN) **2014 World Series of Poker** From Las Vegas.
(FS1) **College Basketball** Florida Gulf Coast at Xavier. (Live) CC
(NBCSports) **College Basketball** Wake Forest at Richmond. (Live)
4:25 p.m. 2 3 **NFL Football** Carolina Panthers at Atlanta Falcons. (Live) CC
17 28 32 **NFL Football** Detroit Lions at Green Bay Packers. (Live) CC
22 **NFL Football** Oakland Raiders at Denver Broncos. (Live) CC
4:30 p.m. (FoxDetroit) **NBA Basketball** Detroit Pistons at Cleveland Cavaliers. (Live)
5:00 p.m. 5 8 16 **Equestrian** Rolex Grand Slam. From Geneva. (Taped) CC
(ESPN) **2014 World Series of Poker** Final Table. From Las Vegas.
6:00 p.m. (FS1) **College Basketball** Belmont at Butler. (Live)
8:00 p.m. (Bigten) **College Basketball** Buffalo at Wisconsin. (Live)
(ESPN2) **2014 World Series of Poker** From Las Vegas.
8:20 p.m. 5 8 16 **NFL Football** Cincinnati Bengals at Pittsburgh Steelers. (Live)

Radio today

7:30 p.m.
Boys high school basketball — Earl McKee Benton Harbor Holiday Tournament, championship game (WSJM-AM, 1400)
8 p.m.
NBA — Pelicans at Bulls (WMVP-AM, 1000)
9 p.m.
NHL — Blackhawks at Avalanche (WGN-AM, 720)

Sunday

1 p.m.
NFL — Bears at Vikings (WBBM-AM, 780)
4:25 p.m.
NFL — Lions at Packers (WSJM-AM, 1400; WCSY-FM, 103.7)

CONTACT US

The Herald-Palladium sports desk is staffed after 7 p.m. nightly. Coaches or managers are asked to report results as soon as possible the evening of the event for publication in the next day's edition.

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Monroe, Pistons beat Pacers

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — Greg Monroe had 19 points and 15 rebounds, Andre Drummond scored 20 points and the Detroit Pistons ended a four-game skid with a 119-109 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Friday night.

Detroit 119, Indiana 109

Brandon Jennings scored 14 and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 15 for the Pistons.

Roy Hibbert paced Indiana with 19 points, but foul trouble sent him to the bench in the third quarter, and the Pistons took advantage.

They outscored the Pacers 36-29 in the period to take an 11-point lead into the fourth.

Hibbert fouled out at 5:53 of the fourth quarter, putting a damper on Indiana's comeback bid. Solomon Hill and C.J. Watson both added 14 points in the losing effort.

The Pistons came out strong, netting 32 points in the first quarter and leading 57-53 at halftime — the team's second-highest first-half output of the season. The Pistons also set a season high with 36 points in the third quarter.

The usually stalwart Indiana defense, which ranks No. 1 in the NBA in opponents' points per game (96.1), allowed the Pistons to shoot 54.7 percent from the field on the night, well above their season average of 41.3 percent (30th in the league).

The Pistons hadn't shot better than 49.3 percent all year. They topped their best scoring output of the season 7:30 remaining.

Indiana shot 50.6 percent, but never could get the lead after Detroit tied it at 15 with 5:54 to go in the first quarter.

TIP-INS

Pistons: Picked up Anthony Tolliver from the Suns on Tuesday, but he wasn't available vs. the Pacers while waiting for a physical from the league. . Three of Detroit's starters (Drummond, Kyle Singler and Caldwell-Pope) are in their first or second year in the NBA.

Pacers: Snapped a two-game winning streak after losing 11 of 12 from Nov. 29 to Dec 20. Indiana has not won more than two consecutive games all season. ... This marked Rodney Stuckey's first trip back to Detroit after spending the first seven years of his career with the Pistons. . This was the first game between the two teams this season. They will play again in Indianapolis on Jan. 16 and Feb. 4 and in Detroit on April 10.

TOURNEY

From page B1

basket apiece by each of the five starters.

"One thing we preach is unselfishness," Benton Harbor coach Corey Sterling said. "We don't want anybody being selfish. If you're selfish, you come out of the game. If somebody's open, get a ball up, because you want to make sure he gets the ball to you in return."

Dawson finished with six assists and sophomore Roy Anderson had five, including an alley-oop to Hall for a dunk.

"Roy is one of the keys to us making a deep run," Sterling said. "We know what we can get from Curtis, we know what we can get from Jaton, but when Roy comes along, we're clicking on all cylinders."

Jarek Hotwagner and Elisha Dryden scored nine points apiece to lead New Buffalo, which committed 26 turnovers.

"They're a good team, and we're not used to playing that style of basketball," New Buffalo coach Randy Mast said. "We came in a little bit scared, deer-in-the-headlights type of deal. Second half we settled down a little bit, but by that time, 50-8 at halftime, it's kind of hard."

Bridgman led Paw Paw 29-24 at halftime, but the Bees managed just 15 second-half points and Paw Paw was able to pull away. The Redskins won the rebounding battle 44-26.

"I think there were two issues," Bridgman coach Mike Miller said. "Number one was a poor shooting night, but I think a bigger concern to me is our rebounding. We did not rebound well. They dominated us on second-chance points."

Nick Klingel led Paw Paw with 15 points and 11 rebounds. He scored the last four points of a 10-2 run that put the Redskins up 34-33. Bridgman took the lead back on a Nick Knowlton basket, but Klingel answered with another score to put Paw Paw up for good.

"We've been averaging 71 points per game, and we just had no energy," Paw Paw coach Scott Eubank said. "No energy whatsoever. Just one of those games I guess. We did do a better job in the second half, but I give a lot of credit to Bridgman. They played that zone all night and they kind of gave us a little trouble."

Tanner Eubank added 13 points and six assists for Paw Paw.

Knowlton led Bridgman with 14 points. Shivam Patel added 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Jody Warner /HP correspondent

Bridgman's Julian Sheriff works the ball as Paw Paw's Ross Beck defends during the Earl McKee Holiday Tournament on Friday.

BENTON HARBOR 85, NEW BUFFALO 28

NEW BUFFALO (28)
Elisha Dryden 3 3-3 9, Clayton Artz 0 1-2 1, John Paul Perez 1 0-0 2, Marques Artz 2 0-1 4, Jarek Hotwagner 4 1-1 9, Travis Maddux 1 1-3 3. Totals: 11 6-10 28.
BENTON HARBOR (85)
Roy Anderson 4 0-0 8, Jaton Gunn 9 0-1 20, Curtis Dawson 8 0-0 17, Malik Hall 6 3-5 15, Tommie Miller 2 0-0 4, Dante Howard 1 0-0 2, Jaylin Lee 1 0-0 2, Jalon Stevens 2 1-2 5, Tyrese Lamar 1 0-0 2, LeQuell Welch 1 0-0 2, Milton McGee 2 0-0 4, Quincy Atterberry 2 0-0 4. Totals: 39 4-8 85.

New Buffalo	4	4	13	7	—	28
B. Harbor	30	20	20	15	—	85

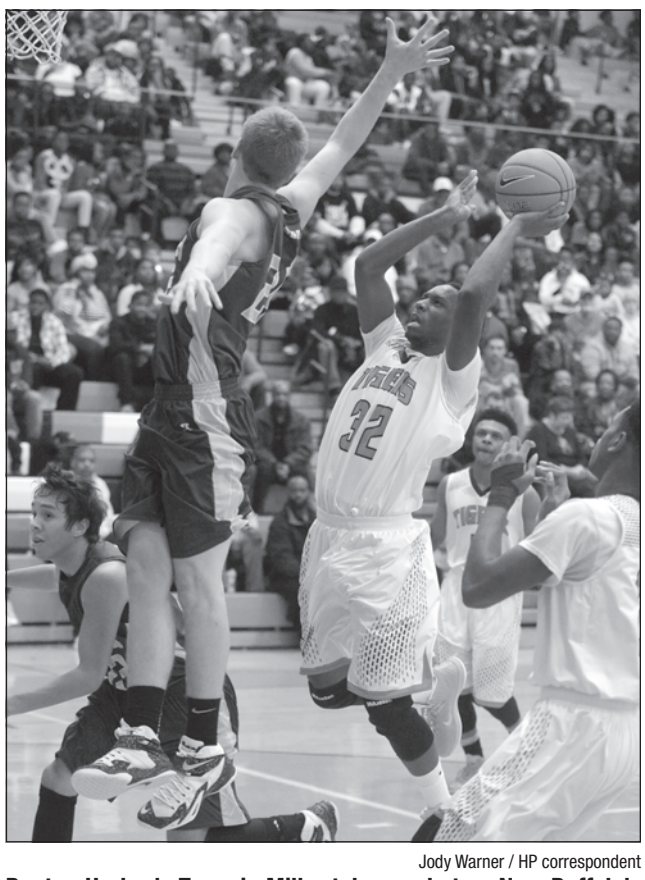
3-point goals — New Buffalo none, Benton Harbor 3 (Gunn 2, Dawson). Total fouls — New Buffalo 8, Benton Harbor 15. Fouled out — none. Technical fouls — none. Rebounds — New Buffalo 22 (Hotwagner 8), Benton Harbor 35 (Hall 6, Miller 6, Atterberry 5). Assists — Dawson (BH) 6, Anderson (BH) 5. Records — New Buffalo 1-3, Benton Harbor 4-0.

PAW PAW 59, BRIDGMAN 44

BRIDGMAN (44)
Nick Knowlton 7 0-0 14, Dan Koziel 3 0-0 8, Shivam Patel 3 6-8 12, Julian Sheriff 3 0-0 6, Luis Geraldi 2 0-0 4. Totals: 18 6-8 44.
PAW PAW (59)
Nick Klingel 6 3-3 15, Parker Marcon 4 3-3 11, Jordan Edwards 2 1-2 5, Tanner Eubank 4 4-6 13, Collin Siwula 3 0-0 8, Ross Beck 3 1-2 7. Totals: 22 12-16 59.

Bridgman	14	15	8	7	—	44
Paw Paw	13	11	14	21	—	59

3-point goals — Bridgman 2 (Koziel 2), Paw Paw 3 (Siwula 2, Eubank). Total fouls — Bridgman 13, Paw Paw 8. Fouled out — none. Technical fouls — none. Rebounds — Paw Paw 44 (Klingel 11, Siwula 8), Bridgman 26 (Patel 10). Assists — Eubank (PP) 6. Records — Bridgman 3-2, Paw Paw 4-1.



Jody Warner / HP correspondent

Benton Harbor's Tommie Miller takes a shot as New Buffalo's Jarek Hotwagner defends in the paint during Friday's game.

Report: U-M officials to be in Bay Area for Harbaugh

By MARK SNYDER
Detroit Free Press (TNS)

By nearly all accounts, Jim Harbaugh's coaching tenure with the San Francisco 49ers is nearing its end.

That was reported last week by Fox Sports' NFL insider Jay Glazer and speculated by many other NFL reporters over the past year.

Now it appears Michigan is ready to pounce.

Fox Sports college football insider Bruce Feldman tweeted Friday night that Michigan officials and the search firm will be in the Bay Area this weekend, presumably to lock down Harbaugh to be the school's next coach.

49ers general manager Trent Baalke would only say this week on his radio show that Harbaugh will meet with the organization's brass early next week after Sunday's season finale against Arizona.

That impacts Michigan, which is pursuing Harbaugh for its coaching vacancy, because in some way he'll need to be released from his 49ers contract, which has a year remaining.

Asked at Friday's press conference if he would resign on Monday, Harbaugh wouldn't say.

"It's the same. We plowed that ground very thoroughly," he said, referring to when he was asked about the postseason meetings earlier in the week.

For U-M, it's a waiting game at this point, though there is an advantage over potential NFL teams wanting his services. Those teams cannot speak to him or pursue him until he's out of his 49ers contract or they get permission from the 49ers.

NFL

All Times EST

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	12	3	0	.800	459	296
Miami	8	7	0	.533	364	336
Buffalo	8	7	0	.533	326	280
N.Y. Jets	3	12	0	.200	246	377

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Indianapolis	10	5	0	.667	431	359
Houston	8	7	0	.533	349	290
Jacksonville	3	12	0	.200	232	389
Tennessee	2	13	0	.133	244	411

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Cincinnati	10	4	1	.700	348	317
x-Pittsburgh	10	5	0	.667	409	351
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	389	292
Cleveland	7	8	0	.467	289	317

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Denver	11	4	0	.733	435	340
San Diego	9	6	0	.600	341	329
Kansas City	8	7	0	.533	334	274
Oakland	3	12	0	.200	239	405

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Dallas	11	4	0	.733	423	335
Philadelphia	9	6	0	.600	440	374
N.Y. Giants	6	9	0	.400	354	366
Washington	4	11	0	.267	284	394

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	6	8	1	.433	305	371
Atlanta	6	9	0	.400	378	383
New Orleans	6	9	0	.400	378	404
Tampa Bay	2	13	0	.133	257	387

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Detroit	11	4	0	.733	301	252
x-Green Bay	11	4	0	.733	456	328
Minnesota	6	9	0	.400	312	334
Chicago	5	10	0	.333	310	429

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Seattle	11	4	0	.733	374	248
x-Arizona	11	4	0	.733	293	279
San Francisco	7	8	0	.467	286	323
St. Louis	6	9	0	.400	318	334

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Sunday's games

Indianapolis at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Houston, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Washington, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Miami, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at New England, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Arizona at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.
St. Louis at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
Oakland at Denver, 4:25 p.m.
Detroit at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.
Carolina at Atlanta, 4:25 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 8:30 p.m.
End regular season.

NFL Playoff Scenarios
WEEK 17
AFC

CLINCHED: New England - AFC East and home-field advantage throughout AFC playoffs; Denver - AFC West; Indianapolis - AFC South; Cincinnati and Pittsburgh - playoff berth.

NEW ENGLAND (vs. Buffalo)
— Clinches home-field advantage throughout AFC playoffs

DENVER (vs. Oakland)
Clinches first-round bye with:
— Win or tie, OR
— Cincinnati Loss, OR
— Cincinnati tie and Indianapolis win

CINCINNATI (at Pittsburgh)
— Clinched playoff spot
Clinches AFC North with:
— Win or tie
Clinches first-round bye with:
— Win and Denver loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Denver loss and Indianapolis loss or tie

PITTSBURGH (vs. Cincinnati)
Pittsburgh clinches AFC North with:
— Win

SAN DIEGO (at Kansas City)
Clinches playoff spot with:
— Win, OR
— Tie and Baltimore loss or tie

BALTIMORE (vs. Cleveland)
Clinches playoff spot with:
— Win and San Diego loss or tie, OR
— Tie and San Diego loss

KANSAS CITY (vs. San Diego)
Clinches playoff spot with:
— Win and Baltimore loss and Houston loss or tie

HOUSTON (vs. Jacksonville)
Clinches playoff spot with:
— Win and Baltimore loss and San Diego loss

NFC

CLINCHED: Arizona - playoff berth; Seattle - playoff berth; Detroit - playoff berth; Green Bay - playoff berth; Dallas - NFC East.

DALLAS (at Washington)
Clinches home-field advantage throughout NFC playoffs with:
— Win and Arizona loss or tie and Detroit/Green Bay tie
Clinches first-round bye with:
— Win and Seattle loss or tie and Arizona loss or tie, OR
— Win and Detroit/Green Bay tie, OR
— Seattle loss and Arizona loss, OR
— Tie and Seattle tie and Arizona loss or tie and Detroit/Green Bay does not end in a tie

DETROIT (at Green Bay)
Clinches NFC North with:
— Win or tie
Clinches home-field advantage throughout NFC playoffs with:
— Win and Seattle loss or tie and Arizona loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Seattle loss and Arizona loss and Dallas loss or tie
Clinches first-round bye with:
— Win, OR
— Tie and Dallas loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Seattle loss and Arizona loss

GREEN BAY (vs. Detroit)
Clinches NFC North and first-round bye with:
— Win
Clinches home-field advantage throughout NFC playoffs with:
— Win and Seattle loss or tie

SEATTLE (vs. St. Louis)
Clinches NFC West with:
— Win, OR
— Tie and Arizona loss or tie, OR
— Arizona loss
Clinches home-field advantage throughout NFC playoffs with:
— Win and Detroit/Green Bay game does not end in a tie, OR
— Win and Dallas loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Arizona loss or tie and Dallas loss or tie and Green Bay/Detroit tie
Clinches first-round bye with:
— Win, OR
— Tie and Arizona loss or tie and Dallas loss, OR
— Tie and Arizona loss or tie and Green Bay/Detroit tie

ARIZONA (at San Francisco)
Clinches NFC West with:
— Win and Seattle loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Seattle loss
Clinches home-field advantage throughout NFC playoffs with:
— Win and Seattle loss or tie and Green Bay loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Seattle loss and Dallas loss or tie and Green Bay/Detroit tie
Clinches first-round bye with:
— Win and Seattle loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Seattle loss and Dallas loss or tie, OR
— Tie and Seattle loss and Green Bay/Detroit tie

CAROLINA (at Atlanta)
Clinches NFC South with:
— Win or tie

ATLANTA (vs. Carolina)
Clinches NFC South with:
— Win

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

All Times EST
Tuesday, Dec. 23
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
Marshall 52, Northern Illinois 23
Poinsettia Bowl
Navy 17, San Diego State 16
Wednesday, Dec. 24
Bahamas Bowl
Western Kentucky 49, Central Michigan 48
Hawaii Bowl
Rice 30, Fresno State 6
Friday, Dec. 26
Heart of Dallas Bowl
Louisiana Tech 35, Illinois 18
Quick Lane Bowl
Rutgers 40, North Carolina 21

NBA

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	22	7	.759	—
Brooklyn	13	15	.464	8½
Boston	10	17	.370	11
New York	5	26	.161	18
Philadelphia	4	23	.148	17

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	21	8	.724	—
Washington	20	8	.714	½
Miami	14	16	.467	7½
Orlando	11	21	.344	11½
Charlotte	10	20	.333	11½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	20	9	.690	—
Cleveland	18	11	.621	2
Milwaukee	15	15	.500	5½
Indiana	10	20	.333	10½
Detroit	6	23	.207	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	21	7	.750	—
Memphis	21	8	.724	½
Dallas	20	10	.667	2
San Antonio	18	13	.581	4½
New Orleans	15	14	.517	6½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	23	7	.767	—
Oklahoma City	15	16	.484	8½
Denver	12	17	.414	10½
Utah	9	20	.310	13½
Minnesota	5	22	.185	16½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	23	5	.821	—
L.A. Clippers	20	10	.667	4
Phoenix	16	14	.533	8
Sacramento	12	16	.429	11
L.A. Lakers	9	20	.310	14½

Thursday's Games
Washington 102, New York 91
Oklahoma City 114, San Antonio 106
Miami 101, Cleveland 91
Chicago 113, L.A. Lakers 93
L.A. Clippers 100, Golden State 86

Friday's Games
Brooklyn 109, Boston 107
Cleveland 98, Orlando 89
Milwaukee 107, Atlanta 77
Detroit 119, Indiana 109
New Orleans 97, San Antonio 90
Oklahoma City 98, Charlotte 75
Houston 117, Memphis 111, OT
L.A. Lakers at Dallas
Minnesota at Denver
Philadelphia at Portland
Phoenix at Sacramento

Today's Games
Toronto at L.A. Clippers, 3:30 p.m.
Boston at Washington, 7 p.m.
Orlando at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Indiana at Brooklyn, 8 p.m.
Atlanta at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Utah, 9 p.m.
New York at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Minnesota at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

PISTONS 119, PACERS 109

INDIANA (109)
S.Hill 4-8 5-5 14, West 3-12 0-0 6, Hibbert 5-10 9-10 19, Watson 6-8 0-2 14, Stuckey 4-7 0-0 9, Miles 1-4 0-0 3, Allen 5-6 0-0 10, G.Hill 5-12 0-0 13, Scola 7-13 0-1 14, Sloan 1-1 2-2 4, Copeland 1-1 0-0 3, Whittington 0-1 0-2 0. Totals 42-83 16-22 109.

DETROIT (119)
Singler 3-9 1-2 9, Monroe 7-11 5-8 19, Drummond 9-12 2-8 20, Jennings 6-12 0-0 14, Caldwell-Pope 6-13 1-1 15, Jerebko 3-7 3-4 10, Butler 1-4 0-0 3, Augustin 6-8 1-2 14, Meeks 6-9 0-0 13, Anthony 0-1 2-4 2. Totals 47-86 15-29 119.

Indiana	**26**	**27**	**29**	**27**	**— 109**
Detroit	**32**	**25**	**36**	**26**	**— 119**

3-Point Goals—Indiana 9-20 (G.Hill 3-8, Watson 2-3, Copeland 1-1, Stuckey 1-1, S.Hill 1-2, Miles 1-3, Whittington 0-1, Scola 0-1), Detroit 10-26 (Singler 2-5, Jennings 2-5, Caldwell-Pope 2-5, Meeks 1-2, Jerebko 1-3, Augustin 1-3, Butler 1-3). Fouled Out—Hibbert. Rebounds—Indiana 49 (West 11), Detroit 51 (Monroe 15). Assists—Indiana 25 (Watson 6), Detroit 25 (Jennings 10). Total Fouls—Indiana 22, Detroit 22. A—13,408 (22,076).

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	35	22	11	2	46	95	84
Tampa Bay	36	21	11	4	46	117	96
Detroit	35	18	8	9	45	100	87
Toronto	35	20	12	3	43	118	102
Boston	35	18	14	3	39	91	91
Florida	32	15	9	8	38	73	82
Ottawa	34	14	14	6	34	90	94
Buffalo	35	13	19	3	29	69	115

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	34	22	7	5	49	108	80
N.Y. Islanders	34	23	11	0	46	105	94
N.Y. Rangers	32	18	10	4	40	97	83
Washington	34	17	11	6	40	99	90
Philadelphia	34	14	14	6	34	97	101
Columbus	33	14	16	3	31	80	107
New Jersey	36	12	17	7	31	78	104
Carolina	34	10	20	4	24	70	93

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	35	23	10	2	48	107	72
Nashville	33	22	9	2	46	95	70
St. Louis	34	21	10	3	45	100	86
Winnipeg	35	18	10	7	43	88	81
Minnesota	32	16	13	3	35	93	89
Colorado	34	13	13	8	34	90	101
Dallas	33	14	14	5	33	95	113

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	36	23	8	5	51	104	98
San Jose	35	19	11	5	43	99	90
Vancouver	33	20	11	2	42	99	91
Los Angeles	35	17	11	7	41	97	88
Calgary	36	18	15	3	39	104	98
Arizona	34	12	18	4	28	80	112
Edmonton	35	7	21	7	21	75	121

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Thursday's Games
No games scheduled

Friday's Games
No games scheduled

Today's Games
N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Boston at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Washington at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Anaheim at Arizona, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Edmonton at Calgary, 10 p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Friday's scores
BOYS
Detroit Communication & Media Arts 52, Detroit Community 49
Detroit HFA 80, Detroit Allen 48
Detroit Mumford 60, Southfield Lathrup 50
Detroit Renaissance 62, Detroit University Science 24
Farmington 46, Detroit Cass Tech 42
Flint Kearsley 67, Otisville Lakeville 36
Harrison Township L'Anse Creuse 66, Algonac 35
Hudsonville 75, Grand Rapids Christian 50
Kingsley 70, Kalkaska 40
Wayland Union 55, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern 26
Motor City Roundball Classic
Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett 59, Royal Oak Shrine 57
Harper Woods Chandler Park Academy 70, Pontiac 59
Howell 70, St. Clair Shores South Lake 66
Michigan City, Ind. 67, Ypsilanti 58
River Rouge 63, Cin. Withrow, Ohio 55
Tol. Rogers, Ohio 60, Grand Rapids Union 54
GIRLS
Otisville Lakeville 41, Flint Kearsley 38
Cardinal Mooney Tournament
Algonac 51, L'Anse Creuse 40
Marine City Cardinal Mooney 44, Detroit Allen 20
Motor City Roundball Classic
Bay City All Saints 41, Detroit Consortium 39
Bay City John Glenn 46, Grand Rapids Union 38
Romulus 50, Reese 40
Southfield 54, McBain 34
Waterford Kettering 64, Brownstown Woodhaven 36

BOWLING

KELLEY'S BOWL
MOONSHINERS — Sonya Jackson 587 (202), Gladys Hunter 518 (214), Tmesia Daughtry 499, Donna Bauman 492 (208). Team: Bad Girls 1581 (572).

AREA SCHEDULE

Today
Boys basketball
Earl McKee Holiday Tournament (Benton Harbor)
Consolation — New Buffalo vs. Bridgman, 6 p.m.
Championship — Benton Harbor vs. Paw Paw, 8 p.m.
Dowagiac at Kalamazoo Central
Wrestling
South Haven, Buchanan, Decatur at Comstock Inv., 9 a.m.
Coloma at Climax-Scotts Inv., 9:15 a.m.

Monday
Girls basketball
Bridgman Inv.— Watervliet vs. Bridgman, 7:30 p.m.
Boys basketball
Countryside at Hartford, 7:30 p.m.
Brandywine at White Pigeon Holiday Inv.,

Tuesday
Girls basketball
Eau Claire at Climax Scotts, 2 p.m.
Watervliet at Bridgman Inv.
Boys basketball
Eau Claire at Climax Scotts, 3:30 p.m.
Coloma at Buchanan, 7 p.m.
Brandywine at White Pigeon Holiday Inv.
Countryside at Lawrence, 7 p.m.

ECHL

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

East Division

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	23	19	3	0	1	39	93	61
Greenville	29	19	9	0	1	39	90	73
Reading	27	16	9	1	1	34	93	86
Elmira	29	15	11	0	3	33	80	85
S Carolina	28	13	10	1	4	31	77	78
Orlando	29	14	12	3	0	31	99	99
Gwinnett	25	8	16	1	0	17	68	86

North Division

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA
Fort Wayne	27	21	5	1	0	43	103	78
Toledo	26	19	4	2	1	41	111	73
Wheeling	24	12	12	0	0	24	72	76
Cincinnati	25	10	11	0	4	24	74	78
Evansville	26	9	13	2	2	22	70	86
Kalamazoo	25	9	14	1	1	20	68	82
Indy	27	6	16	2	3	17	74	103

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA
Allen	25	19	4	1	1	40	112	65
Quad City	27	13	9	3	2	31	84	72
Wichita	27	12	10	1	4	29	74	75
Tulsa	30	13	14	1	2	29	101	114
Missouri	25	12	12	0	1	25	64	85
Rapid City	26	10	14	0	2	22	67	69
Brampton	23	8	14	1	0	17	52	93

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA
Idaho	29	17	10	1	1	36	93	79
Ontario	29	14	10	2	3	33	84	74
Bakersfield	30	15	12	1	2	33	94	96
Colorado	26	16	10	0	0	32	92	78
Utah	26	11	11	2	2	26	70	89
Alaska	26	12	13	0	1	25	79	82
Stockton	29	12	16	1	0	25	90	113

NOTE: Two points are awarded for a win, one point for an overtime or shootout loss.

Friday's Games
Greenville 5, Gwinnett 3
Reading 5, Elmira 2
Indy 4, Cincinnati 3
Allen 5, Tulsa 3
Evansville 6, Fort Wayne 4
Utah at Colorado
Missouri at Rapid City
Ontario at Idaho
Stockton at Bakersfield

Today's Games
Kalamazoo at Toledo, 5:30 p.m.
Florida at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Gwinnett at Greenville, 7 p.m.
Elmira at Reading, 7:05 p.m.
Wheeling at South Carolina, 7:05 p.m.
Evansville at Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m.
Cincinnati at Indy, 7:35 p.m.
Brampton at Quad City, 8:05 p.m.
Allen at Wichita, 8:05 p.m.
Colorado at Utah, 9 p.m.
Missouri at Rapid City, 9:05 p.m.
Ontario at Idaho, 9:10 p.m.
Stockton at Bakersfield, 10 p.m.

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA
Manchester	29	21	6	1	1	44	102	68
Providence	30	15	13	2	0	32	83	78
Portland	30	15	14	1	0	31	74	75
St. John's	32	12	14	5	1	30	74	101
Worcester	28	11	13	3	1	26	70	82

East Division

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA
WB/Scranton	31	17	11	1	2	37	77	67
Hershey	30	15	11	3	1	34	74	68
Lehigh Valley	29	13	11	4	1	31	73	80
Binghamton	29	13	13	2	1	29	95	91
Norfolk	29	12	17	0	0	24	68	96

Northeast Division

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA
Syracuse	30	20	7	3	0	43	91	78
Springfield	31	21	9	1	0	43	96	79
Hartford	30	16	10	2	2	36	80	87
Bridgeport	29	14	11	3	1	32	93	84
Albany	29	13	10	2	4	32	78	83

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA
Rockford	32	18	10	3	1	40	91	76
Chicago	31	17	11	3	0	37	96	77
Milwaukee	29	15	11	0	3	33	79	72
Grand Rapids	28	14	11	3	0	31	84	76
Lake Erie	29	13	11	2	3	31	81	97

North Division

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA
Utica	30	20	5	5	0	45	83	63
Adirondack	32	18	12	1	1	38	88	91
Hamilton	31	14	12	5	0	33	88	84
Toronto	30	11	15	4	0	26	63	85
Rochester	31	12	18	1	0	25	87	96

West Division

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA
Oklahoma City	29	18	7	2	2	40	95	84
San Antonio	27	16	9	2	0	34	84	81
Texas	28	11	9	8	0	30	74	82
Charlotte	29	11	15	2	1	25	66	85
Iowa	30	10	18	1	1	22	76	97

NOTE: Two points are awarded for a win, one point for an overtime or shootout loss.

Friday's Games
Toronto 4, Hamilton 0
Manchester 5, Worcester 4, SO
Springfield 2, Hartford 1, SO
Syracuse 3, Albany 2, OT
Bridgeport 2, Providence 0
Hershey 4, Lehigh Valley 2
Utica 2, Adirondack 1
Binghamton 3, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton 0
Rochester 4, Lake Erie 1
Chicago 6, Milwaukee 2
Iowa 2, Rockford 1
Texas at San Antonio

Today's Games
Providence at Manchester, 3 p.m.
Springfield at Albany, 5 p.m.
Worcester at Syracuse, 7 p.m.
Binghamton at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Portland at Hartford, 7 p.m.
Adirondack at Hamilton, 7 p.m.
Iowa at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Lake Erie at Utica, 7 p.m.
Norfolk at Lehigh Valley, 7:05 p.m.
Toronto at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
Bridgeport at WB/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Oklahoma City at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Texas, 8 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
National League
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Agreed to terms with 2B Dan Uggla, 1B Clint Robinson, 3B Ian Stewart and RHPs Heath Bell, Mitch Lively and Scott McGregor on minor league contracts.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
NBA — Suspended N.Y. Knicks F Quincy Acy one game and fined him $15,000 for a Flagrant Foul Two during Thursday's game.
HOUSTON ROCKETS — Signed F Josh Smith. Released F Tarik Black.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
NFL — Fined Oakland DE Justin Tuck, San Francisco OT Joe Staley and Detroit DE Ziggy Ansah $22,050; Seattle RB Marshawn Lynch $11,050; and San Francisco WR Anquan Boldin $10,000 for their actions during last week's games.

LONG GAME

From page B1

3:30. That figure coincides with the typical window TV networks allot for a game.

"A shorter game is better than a longer game. That's painting with a broad brush," Steinbrecher said. "If a game is exciting, I suppose it doesn't matter how long it takes. We ought to probably be in that 3:15 to 3:20 range."

Baylor's 61-58 win over TCU on Oct. 11 — at 4 hours, 25 minutes — was the season's longest game that didn't go overtime or wasn't delayed by weather, according to STATS. Temple's 59-0 win over Delaware State on Sept. 20 — at 2:40 — was the shortest.

Video reviews and the demands of television play a role in game times, but they are secondary to the increased scoring, administrators said.

The average number of game stops for the replay official to review a play has held steady at 1.7 to 1.9 a game. The average duration of those stoppages is down to 1 minute, 15 seconds this season from a high of 1:22 in 2011.

Television agreements vary by conference and network, but generally there are three or four commercial breaks of differing lengths per quarter.

"In this world, you always want to make sure that if a TV commercial break is 2 minutes, 30 seconds, it's 2 minutes 30 seconds and not three minutes," Big Ten senior associate commissioner for television administration Mark Rudner said. "TV has a stake in it, too. The last thing TV wants to do is have a game that goes too long and miss a game that is coming up."

ESPN senior vice president Burke Magnus said as long as the average game doesn't extend past 3 1/2 hours, his network sees no problem.

The issue comes back to those high-producing offenses.

In the NFL, the average number of offensive plays is 64 a game. It's 72 in the top tier of college football.

The NFL scoring average is 22.7 points. In the Bowl Subdivision it's 29.4, the same as last year and just under the record of 29.5 in 2012.

The game clock stops for three to four minutes every time there's a touchdown. That's how long it takes to kick the extra point and for the clock to start running again on the kick return or next play from scrimmage if there is no runback.

Though college football attendance remains robust, administrators are always looking for ways to draw fans away from their high-definition TVs at home and to the stadium.

Once there, they need to be entertained when the game is in a lull.

Some schools have hired "fan experience" directors to keep game day fun. Wifi has been enhanced at stadiums, and bigger-than-ever video boards have been installed. Still, many schools are seeing declines in student ticket sales. Those students represent the future fan base.

"People want the experience," said Jim Kahler, executive director of Ohio University's Center for Sports Administration, "but they want it convenient and they want it fast."

2014

From page B1

five times in a row, before he put a forehand through the goalie's legs for his fourth goal in six chances. "At some point, you think, 'Does he have any more moves left?'" U.S. captain Zach Parise said.

BRAZIL BLOWOUT

For a soccer-mad nation hosting the World Cup for the first time since 1950, it was championship or bust. Oh, what a bust it was. Brazil was blown out by Germany 7-1 in the semifinals, the biggest rout ever that far along in the tournament. The Germans were unstoppable, scoring five goals in the first half-hour — four of them in a seven-minute span. "It was very important to stay calm, cool and courageous in facing Brazilian passion," said the winning coach, Joachim Loew, whose team went to capture the title that was supposed to go to the home team. For Brazil, there was nothing but heartache, a nation plunging into mourning at the unimaginable result. "We apologize to all Brazilians," defender David Luiz said.

WILD NIGHT IN WACO

In a Big 12 showdown, neither team played a lick of defense until Marcus Mallet returned an interception 49 yards for a touchdown with 11 1-2 minutes remaining, giving TCU a seemingly comfortable 58-37 lead over Baylor. Turns out, no lead was safe against Bears quarterback Bryce Petty. He led three lightning-quick touchdown drives to tie the game, then drove Baylor into position for Chris Callahan's 28-yard field goal as time expired for a beyond-improbable 61-58 victory. "I just knew looking at guys' faces that we were going to come back in that game," Petty said. "Twenty-one points isn't a big deal for us."

COLTS COMEBACK

Speaking of comebacks, the Colts pulled off a memorable one of their own in an AFC wild-card playoff game. Kansas City led 38-10 early in the third quarter, but Indianapolis scored 35 second-half points for the second-biggest rally in NFL postseason history. Andrew Luck threw for 443 yards and four touchdowns, shaking off three interceptions. He also scored a touchdown on a fumble recovery. The teams combined for 1,049 yards, a playoff record. Not enough, it turned out, for Kansas City to end a 20-year drought since its last playoff win.

SHOCKERS SHOCKED

Wichita State had not lost since the previous year's Final Four and took a 35-0 record in its third-round game against Kentucky, a team that had underachieved after starting the year ranked No. 1. The game went back and forth the entire way, the margin never more than five points over the final 18 1-2 minutes. The Wildcats finally went ahead for good, 73-71, when James Young knocked down a 3-pointer with less than 2 minutes to go. The Shockers had a chance to win it and stay on course to be the first unbeaten national champion since Indiana in 1976. Fred VanVleet's 3-pointer bounced off the side of the rim as the horn sounded. Kentucky 78, Wichita State 76.

DURANT BRINGS THE THUNDER

Memphis had a 98-93 lead in Game 2 of the NBA playoffs with just under 20 seconds remaining. But Oklahoma City had Kevin Durant, who came up with what might be shot of the year — a towering 3-pointer from the corner as he was tumbling out of bounds. Nothing but net. Plus, he was fouled by Marc Gasol and knocked down the free throw to complete a four-point play. The Thunder wound up sending the game to overtime, but the Grizzlies bounced back from the shock of Durant's amazing shot to win handily, 111-105.

WIMBLEDON CLASSIC

Novak Djokovic was on the verge of finishing off Roger Federer in the fourth set of the Wimbledon final. The 33-year-old Swiss star would not go that easy. With Djokovic serving for the match at 5-3, Federer broke for the first time all day. He would go on to win five straight games, forcing a decisive set that pushed this one into classic territory. Djokovic held on after nearly four hours of momentum shifts, winning 6-7 (7), 6-4, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-4 to deny Federer his record eighth title at the All-England Club. "I respect your career and everything you have done," Djokovic told Federer afterward. "And thank you for letting me win today."

WINNING IN THE GLOAMING

After golf's first three majors failed to produce much drama, the PGA Championship turned out to be a pure theater with an All-Star cast. Rory McIlroy, Phil Mickelson, Rickie Fowler and Henrik Stenson all held a share of the lead on the back nine. The final two hours were filled with eagles and birdies, with tension and chaos. Finally, with darkness threatening to push the finale to the next morning, McIlroy knocked in a 10-inch putt that gave him a one-stroke victory over Mickelson. It was Boy Wonder's second straight major title and fourth overall, making him just the fourth player in the last century to win that many before his 26th birthday. The other three? Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Bobby Jones. Not bad company.

RACE FOR THE TITLE

While it may seem a bit like pro wrestling in the way it tries to manipulate the results, NASCAR got what it was looking for in the latest version of the Sprint Cup championship. Kevin Harvick pulled off a relentless dash through the field, going from 12th to first over the final 15 laps to claim his first title in the final race of the year at Homestead. He beat three other drivers also seeking their first titles: Denny Hamlin, Ryan Newman and Joey Logano. "If you want to win the championship, you're going to have to figure out how to win races," Harvick said. "In the end, that's what it came down to."

PACKERS

From page B1

on the field Friday.

"He's done everything that's been asked of him today," said coach Mike McCarthy, noting Rodgers' involvement in classroom prep work for the game.

Rodgers is expected to practice Saturday morning, when Green Bay holds its final session of the week.

"Really tomorrow will be a big indicator, just to watch him move around and do the different things," McCarthy said. "And then we'll communicate during

BEETLE BAILEY

BOY, IT SURE IS HARD TO GET UP AND GET GOING IN THE MORNING
12-27
BUT IT JUST HAS TO BE DONE!
GREG'H MOTT WALKER
LAUNDR
FORTUNATELY, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO LAST LONG

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

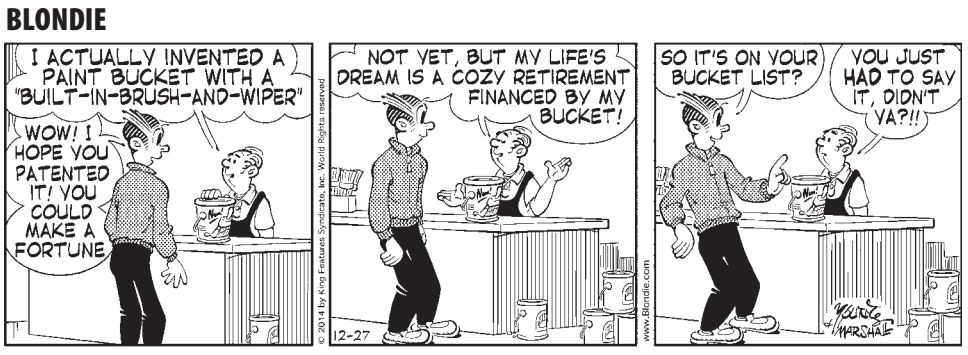
By Bil Keane

"I was just over at Spencer's house. I know what I want for Christmas next year."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"DENNIS DOESN'T USE INSTRUCTIONS BECAUSE HE CAN'T READ YET. WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?"

BLONDIE


I ACTUALLY INVENTED A PAINT BUCKET WITH A "BUILT-IN-BRUSH-AND-WIPER"
WOW! I HOPE YOU PATENTED IT! YOU COULD MAKE A FORTUNE
NOT YET, BUT MY LIFE'S DREAM IS A COZY RETIREMENT FINANCED BY MY BUCKET!
12-27
SO IT'S ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?
YOU JUST HAD TO SAY IT, DIDN'T YA?!!
MARSHALL
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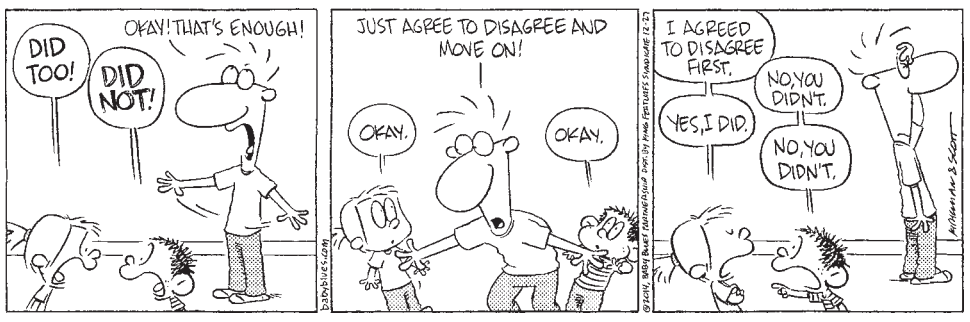
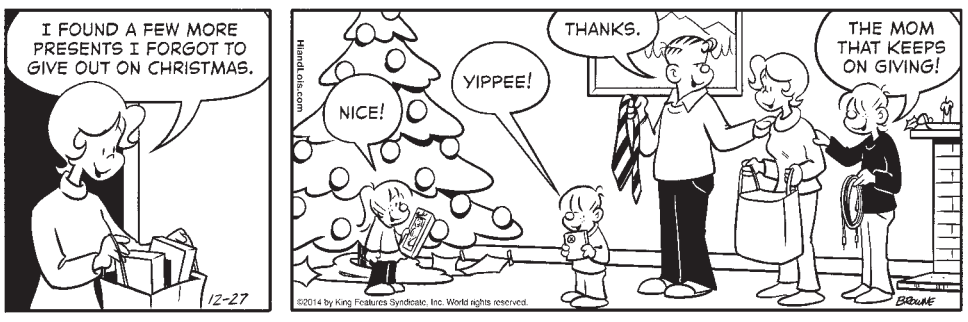
www.Blondie.com

BABY BLUES



HI & LOIS


I FOUND A FEW MORE PRESENTS I FORGOT TO GIVE OUT ON CHRISTMAS.
12-27
NICE!
YIPPEE!
THANKS.
THE MOM THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!
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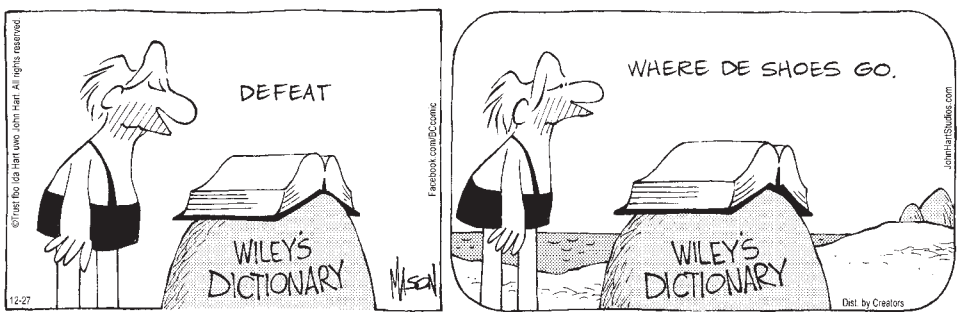
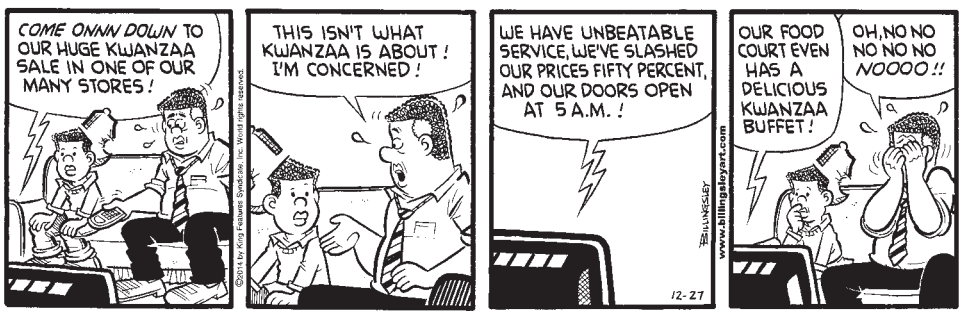
BROOME

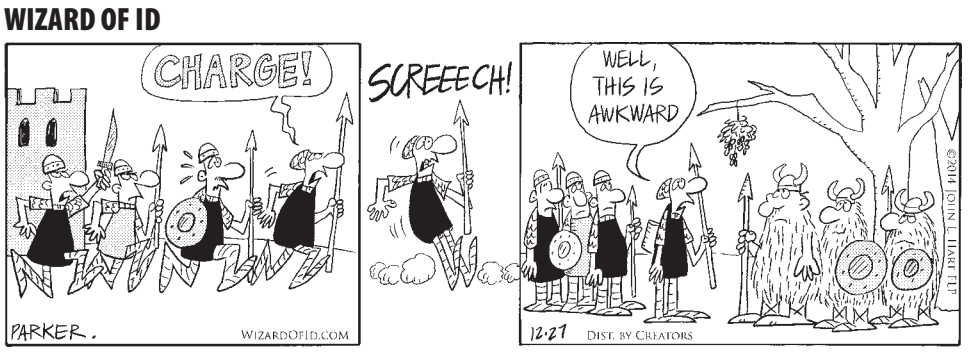
BC



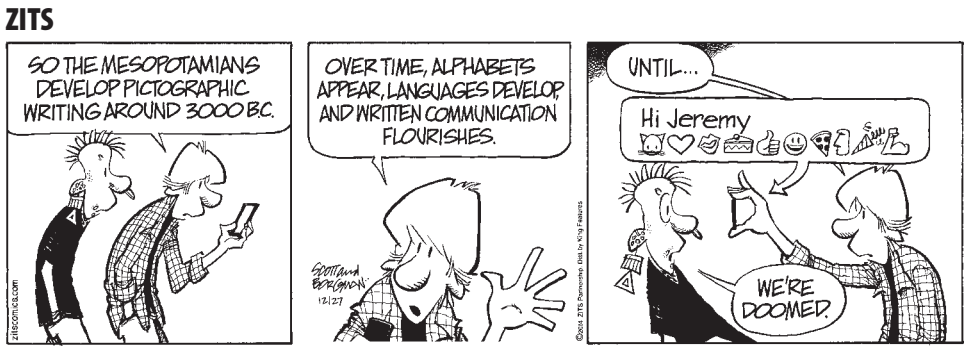
CURTIS


COME ONNN DOWN TO OUR HUGE KWANZAA SALE IN ONE OF OUR MANY STORES!
THIS ISN'T WHAT KWANZAA IS ABOUT! I'M CONCERNED!
WE HAVE UNBEATABLE SERVICE, WE'VE SLASHED OUR PRICES FIFTY PERCENT, AND OUR DOORS OPEN AT 5 A.M.!
12-27
OUR FOOD COURT EVEN HAS A DELICIOUS KWANZAA BUFFET!
OH, NO NO NO NO NO NOOOO!!
www.billingsleyart.com

WIZARD OF ID



ZITS


SO THE MESOPOTAMIANS DEVELOP PICTOGRAPHIC WRITING AROUND 3000 B.C.
OVER TIME, ALPHABETS APPEAR, LANGUAGES DEVELOP, AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FLOURISHES.
12/27
UNTIL...
Hi Jeremy
WE'RE DOOMED.

DILBERT

WE FOUND THE "BLISS POINT" FOR IMMERSIVE 3-D HEADGEAR.
Dilbert.com DilbertCartoonist@gmail.com
THE PRODUCT IS SO GOOD THAT 87% OF OUR CUSTOMERS STARVED TO DEATH WHILE USING IT.
WE NEVER GET THE CUSTOMER RETENTION PART RIGHT.
12-27-14 ©2014 Scott Adams, Inc. /Dist. by Universal Uclick

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

I BROUGHT THIS CAT HOME TO GET RID OF A HOUSE MOUSE!
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT!
SEE YOU LATER!
YOU'RE WELCOME!
SQUEEK
12-27
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GARFIELD

HI! I'M YOUR HOLIDAY OVEREATING NIGHTMARE!
Distributed by Universal Uclick
www.facebook.com/garfield
MUAH-HA! HA! HA! HAAAAAH!
BUT WHAT ARE YOU?
THE LAST BELT NOTCH
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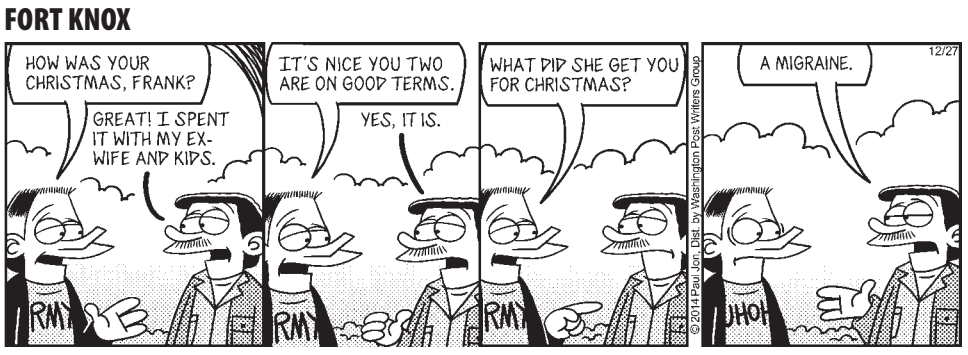
DAVIS 12-27

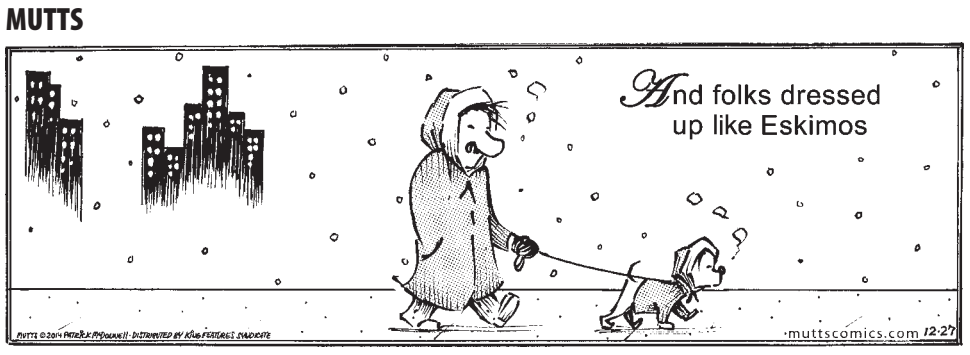
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

THIS SLIP WILL BE GOOD FOR MOM, THIS SHIRT WILL BE PERFECT FOR RALPH, THESE SOCKS...
GRIMM, WHERE DID YOU FIND THESE GIFTS?
ON-LINE
12/27

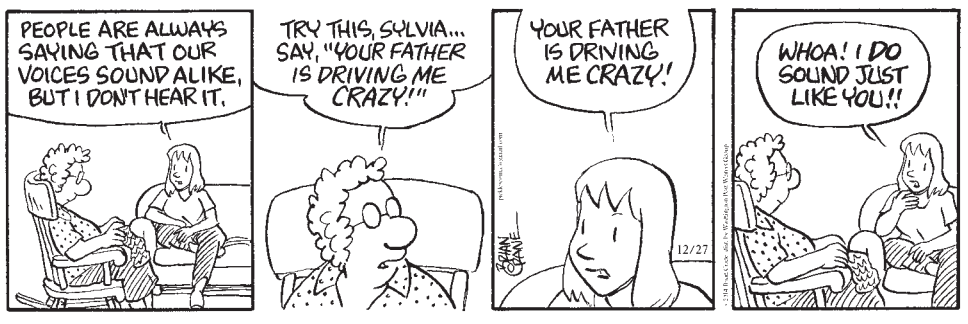
FORT KNOX


HOW WAS YOUR CHRISTMAS, FRANK?
GREAT! I SPENT IT WITH MY EX-WIFE AND KIDS.
IT'S NICE YOU TWO ARE ON GOOD TERMS.
YES, IT IS.
WHAT DID SHE GET YOU FOR CHRISTMAS?
A MIGRAINE.
12/27
© 2014 Paul Jon. Dist. by Washington Post Writers Group

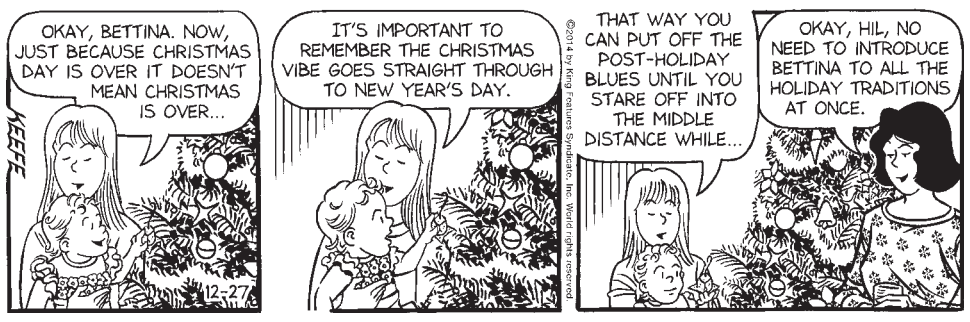
MUTTS


And folks dressed up like Eskimos
MUTTS ©2014 PATRICK MCDONNELL. DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
mutts comics.com 12-27

PICKLES


PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS SAYING THAT OUR VOICES SOUND ALIKE, BUT I DON'T HEAR IT.
TRY THIS, SYLVIA... SAY, "YOUR FATHER IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!"
YOUR FATHER IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!
12/27
WHOA! I DO SOUND JUST LIKE YOU!!

SALLY FORTH


OKAY, BETTINA. NOW, JUST BECAUSE CHRISTMAS DAY IS OVER IT DOESN'T MEAN CHRISTMAS IS OVER...
KEEFE
12-27
IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THE CHRISTMAS VIBE GOES STRAIGHT THROUGH TO NEW YEAR'S DAY.
THAT WAY YOU CAN PUT OFF THE POST-HOLIDAY BLUES UNTIL YOU STARE OFF INTO THE MIDDLE DISTANCE WHILE...
OKAY, HIL, NO NEED TO INTRODUCE BETTINA TO ALL THE HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AT ONCE.
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Prime Time TV

SATURDAY EVENING DEC. 27

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	Wheel of Fortune	★ Norbit ('07, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Thandie Newton, Cuba Gooding Jr.				20/20 CC	
CBS 2 3 22	Paid Program	Hawaii Five-0 "Pukana" CC		48 Hours (N) CC		48 Hours (N) CC	
NBC 5 8 16	Paid Program	WWE Tribute to the Troops (N) CC		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Saturday Night Live CC	
FOX 17 28 32	Name Game	Bones "The Corpse at the Convention"		Sleepy Hollow "The Weeping Lady"		Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS 34	Lawrence Welk	Antiques Roadshow "The Boomer Years"		Keeping Up	Keeping Up	As Time Goes By	As Time Goes By
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	Futurama CC	Futurama CC	Seinfeld CC	Seinfeld CC	News	Friends CC
MNT 50	Graham Bensinger	Burn Notice "Friends Like These" CC		Burn Notice "Last Rites" CC		The Closer "A Family Affair" CC	
WCIU 26	Mike & Molly	Futurama CC	Futurama CC	American Dad	American Dad	Family Guy	American Dad
WHME 46	Designing Spaces	High School Basketball			High School Basketball		
WSBT 22	The Pinkertons	Da Vinci's Inquest CC		White Collar "Unfinished Business"		News	H'wood News
A&E	:00 Criminal Minds	Criminal Minds Serial killer targeting coeds.		Criminal Minds "A Shade of Gray"		Criminal Minds "The Big Wheel" CC	
AMC	Lost World	★★ Jurassic Park III ('01, Adventure) Sam Neill, William H. Macy, Tea Leoni. CC				★★★ Jurassic Park ('93) CC	
Animal	Oddest	Too Cute! (N)		My Cat From Hell		Oddest Animal	
BET	Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	:12 The Game CC	
Big Ten	College Basketball			College Basketball			
Bravo	Ocean's Twelve	★★ Fast Five ('11) Vin Diesel, Paul Walker. Dom Toretto and company ramp up the action in Brazil.					★★ Fast Five
Cartoon	Clarence	Sit Down	King/Hill	King/Hill	American	Boon	Dynamite
Cinemax	★★ The Purge	★★★★ Platoon ('86, War) Tom Berenger, Willem Dafoe, Charlie Sheen. CC				★ R.I.P.D. ('13) Jeff Bridges. CC	
CMT	Redneck Island CC			Redneck Island		Redneck Island	
CNBC	Secret	Secret	Secret	Suze Orman Show		American Greed	
CNN	The Hunt	The Hunt		The Hunt		The Hunt	
Comedy	Jeff Dunham: All		Jeff Dunham: Controlled Chaos			Jeff Dunham	
CSNC	Sports	Bad	Hockey	NHL Hockey: Blackhawks at Avalanche			
Discovery	Deadliest Catch	Deadliest Catch The fleet has doubts.		Deadliest Catch "Women Drivers"		Deadliest Catch CC	
Disney	Jessie	Dog	I Didn't	Liv-Mad.	Jessie	Lab Rats	Kickin' It
DIY	Reno	Reno	Reno	Reno	Reno	Reno	Amish
E!	Hamptons	★ Little Fockers ('10) Ben Stiller				The Dilemma	
Encore	Death Becomes	★★ Fun With Dick & Jane ('05) Jim Carrey. iTV. CC			:35 ★ Coyote Ugly ('00) Piper Perabo. iTV. CC		
ESPN	Football	College Football: National University Holiday Bowl					
ESPN2	Basket	SEC Storied			30 for 30		
ESPNC	Bozella	The Real Rocky		The Dotted Line		30 for 30 CC	
Family	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix	★★★ Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince ('09, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint.					
Food	Chopped	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped	
Fox News	Report	Huckabee (N)		Justice With Jeanine		FOX News Special	
Fox Sports	NHL Hockey: Red Wings at Senators				Red Wings Live (N)		Wingspan
FX	Here Cm Boom	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly
G4	2 Months	Science	Science	Science	Science	Soup	Soup
Golf	:00 PGA Tour Golf BMW Championship, Final Round.						
Hallmark	Cartwrights	A Very Merry Mix-Up ('13, Romance) Alicia Witt, Mark Wiebe, Scott Gibson.				A Bride for Christmas ('12) CC	
HBO	The Normal Heart	★★★ The Grand Budapest Hotel ('14) Ralph Fiennes.			:45 ★★ Ride Along ('14) Ice Cube, Kevin Hart. CC		
History	Aliens	Ancient Aliens CC		Ancient Aliens CC		Ancient Aliens CC	
HGTV	Flip or	Property Brothers		Property Brothers		House Hunters	
Learning	E.R.	Untold Stories of ER		Craziest Cases		Sex Sent Me to the	
Lifetime	Movie	A Wife's Nightmare ('14) (P).				Movie	
MSNBC	Caught	Caught on Camera		Lockup		Lockup	
MTV	Friday	★★ She's Out of My League ('10) Jay Baruchel.					Friday
NFL	NFL Total	A Football Life		A Football Life		A Football Life	
Nick	Henry	Henry	Nicky	Thunder	Haunted	Prince	Prince
NGEO	Troopers	Alaska-Trooper		Alaska-Trooper		Drugs, Inc.	
Oxygen	Baby Mama	★★★ Bridesmaids ('11) Kristen Wiig. A maid of honor's life unravels as the big day approaches.					Bridesmaids
Showtime	Cold Light-Day	★★ Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom ('13, Biography) Idris Elba, Naomie Harris, Tony Kgoroge. CC					Lost Songs
Spike	Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade ('89)				Indiana Jones and Crystal Skull		
Starz	:10 The Missing	:15 The Missing (iTV) A key witness is murdered. CC			:20 The Missing (iTV) CC		:25 The Missing
SyFy	:00 Ragin' Cajun Redneck Gators ('13) Jordan Hinson.			Robocroc ('13, Science Fiction) Corin Nemec, Steven Hartley, Dee Wallace.			
TBS	Love-Raymond	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory
TCM	Lawrence of Arabia	★★★ The Black Stallion ('79, Adventure) Kelly Reno, Mickey Rooney. CC				The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe	
TMC	★ Scary Movie V ('13) Ashley Tisdale, Simon Rex. CC			★★★ The Texas Chain Saw Massacre ('74) (P).			VHS ('12) CC
TNT	Clash	★★★ 300 ('07) Gerard Butler.				Transporter	
Travel	Ghost	Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures		Dead Files Revisited	
TV Land	FamFeud	FamFeud	FamFeud	Raymond	Raymond	King	King
USA	:00 NCIS	NCIS Tony revisits his time in Baltimore.		NCIS Tracking the Port-to-Port killer.		NCIS The Port-to-Port killer is revealed.	
VH1	:00 ★★★ Dazed and Confused ('93)				★★★★ Pulp Fiction ('94)		
WGN-A	:22 Manhattan A development overseas.		:23 Manhattan Akley becomes vulnerable.		:23 Manhattan "Perestroika" CC		★★ Man on Fire

The mechanics of balance

DEAR DOCTOR K: What are the body parts, or systems, that help us balance?

DEAR READER: You're asking a very interesting question. I never even thought about it until I went to medical school. When I learned what I'm about to tell you, I thought it was interesting. However, I didn't appreciate how important problems with balance would be for my patients.

A lot of people begin to notice subtle problems with balance when they enter their 60s. Over the next two decades, their balance can become problematic enough that it affects their health. Poor balance can cause falls that can lead to disability, and sometimes death. Good balance, by contrast, builds confidence and fosters independence.

Our daily balancing acts require intricate coordination between body systems. These include the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord), the vestibular system (brain and inner ear), the visual system (brain and eye), and a vast web of position-sensing nerves called proprioceptors.

■ A part of the Brain called the cerebellum oversees balance and movement. It receives sensory information, such as sight, sound and touch, from our nerves. Another part of the brain oversees other aspects of balance, such as attention, planning and movement. It also supplies memories important to balance. For example, when you face a balance challenge like a slippery sidewalk or rocky path, you have a memory of how you moved your body in the past to deal with such situations.

Dr. Anthony Komaroff

■ The Spinal Cord serves as a bridge between brain and body. Nerves along its length receive feedback from the peripheral nervous system, a lacework of nerve fibers that branch out from the central nervous system to the far reaches of the body. The spinal cord also initiates reflexes, such as the quick-stepping response to an unexpected push. It delivers commands to the muscles too, telling them to make voluntary movements.

■ The body's balance mechanism is called the Vestibular System. It is housed in the inner ear structure and is made up of three semicircular tubes. These tubes consist of bone-encased membranes filled with fluid and lined with hair cells. As you move, fluid in the canals shifts and bends the hair cells. This prods them to fire messages to the brain telling it how much you moved and in which direction.

■ In the Visual System, the eyes send visual information to the brain, continually logging where you are in relation to surrounding objects.

■ The position-sensing nerves called Proprioceptors are responsible for proprioception – the ability to perceive where your body is in space. Proprioception helps you stay balanced and move through your environment without stumbling or bumping into things. Found primarily in muscles, tendons and joints, proprioceptors stream information to the brain. The brain instructs muscles to contract in large or small ways as conditions change (when you're on uneven ground, for example).

I've put descriptions and photos of two exercises to help improve your balance on my website, AskDoctorK.com.

As I have grown older, I've come to appreciate how important balance is, and how helpful the exercises are. I think you will, too.

Dr. Komaroff is a physician and professor at Harvard Medical School. To send questions, go to AskDoctorK.com, or write: Ask Doctor K, 10 Shattuck St., Second Floor, Boston, MA 02115.

Neat-freak's girlfriend sweeps suggestions aside

DEAR ABBY: Is nitpicking a poor trait to have? I see it as a positive thing as long as matters are brought up in a helpful way. If you want a healthy relationship with the person you live with, isn't it best to tell her what you think should be done and how?

Two examples: My girlfriend likes to take her socks off when she's lying on the couch. She rolls them off her feet with the opposite foot and they sometimes end up in the corner of the couch, but most of the time on the floor. Also, dishes never get rinsed off, washed or put away on time. The sock thing is gross, and the dishes end up stinking or the food gets stuck on them. Also, the dishes sit in the strainer, not the cupboard.

My girlfriend thinks I go overboard and bombard her with these suggestions. I'd like to know how you and your readers feel about nitpicking. – Likes Things Neat in Louisville

DEAR LIKES THINGS NEAT: I find it interesting that you used the term "nitpicking." Is that what your girlfriend calls it when you tell her she's doing something that bothers you? Nitpicking encompasses more than asking someone to pick up her socks or not leave the dishes in the sink or on the counter. (If she washes them, shouldn't YOU put them into the cupboard?)

There are few things that a neatnik finds more upsetting than living with someone who is disorganized. You and your girlfriend appear to have some very basic differences. If you're planning to make this romance a lifelong commitment, I'm warning both of you in advance that you can't change another person. Got it?

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I've been doing my mother-in-law's hair for the last seven years. I became very busy with clients and had her double-booked in between clients because she wasn't a paying customer. She felt "shuffled around" and decided to text me, telling me she will go to another hairdresser.

I'm hurt and don't understand why she wouldn't communicate this to me directly so we could have worked something out. What's the best way to handle this? – Hairdresser in California

DEAR HAIRDRESSER: Talk with her directly. Tell her you received her text and the snub wasn't intentional. One would think she'd realize you were doing her a favor by working her in, but if she can't understand that, then perhaps it's better she see another stylist. Accept it and move on.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter calls me (hands-free) when she is driving in her car. We have lively conversations and I enjoy her calls. However, she is always either running errands or on her way to work when she calls. I can be in the middle of a sentence when she announces, "Oops, Mom, I've reached my destination. Gotta go. Love you!"

Am I wrong to feel she is "fitting" me in? Or should I just be happy for the call? – A Mom in Connecticut

DEAR MOM: It may seem like your daughter is "fitting you in," but at least she ends the conversations with an expression of love. If her schedule is busy, her drive time may be the optimum time for her to talk privately. So be happy – it's better than never hearing from her at all.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Crossword

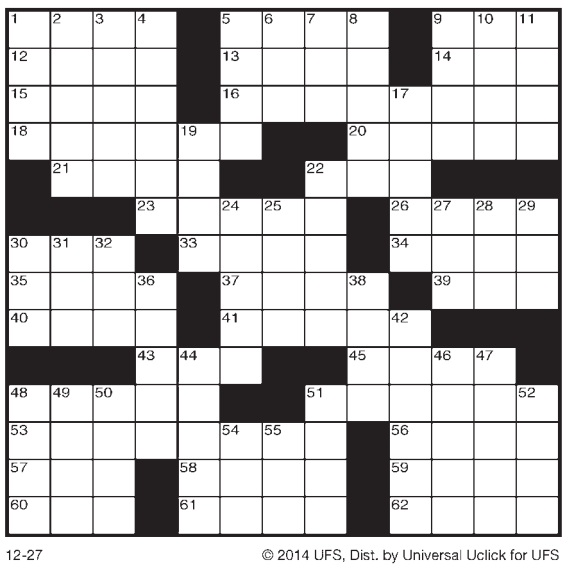
ACROSS
1 Chancellor Helmut
5 Humid
9 Jaunty lid
12 Length x width
13 Hideous giant
14 "Exodus" name
15 String together
16 Accelerator (2 wds.)
18 Time of the mammals
20 Marble blocks
21 Roman emperor
22 Family mem.
23 Popsicle holder
26 Buckeye State
30 Long-handled implement
33 Actress — Adams
34 Bark
35 I had no —!
37 Ketch's kin
39 Prune
40 Information
41 Underdog, often
43 Earth's star
45 Expansive
48 Halloween quaff
51 Type of cracker
53 Carried a canoe
56 Very funny! (hyph.)
57 Floor
58 Braxton or Tennille
59 Level
60 Mattress problem
61 Fencing sword
62 Smell awful

DOWN
1 Leafy vegetable
2 Hunter constellation
3 And so
4 Kobe's team
5 Old ruler of Venice
6 Famous Khan
7 Bride's title
8 7 Up rival
9 Hooray for me! (hyph.)
10 Fast horse
11 Wire thicknesses
17 Pipe bend
19 Jot down
22 Distorts, as data
24 Pastoral poem
25 Hi or bye
27 Ad — committee
28 Chit
29 Recurrently
30 Hr. part
31 Sonnet kin
32 Hard seat
36 Debit's opposite
38 Impose taxes
42 Bacon portion
44 Speak
46 Fend off
47 Giggle (hyph.)
48 Audit aces
49 Big Ten school
50 Small remnant
51 Garfield's victim
52 Standing
54 DDE's party
55 WSW opposite

Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	A	X	A			R	I	M		B	B	C
U	N	L	I	T		A	R	C		R	I	O
S	A	S	S	Y		J	A	C	K	A	L	S
			L	P	G	A		O	N	S	E	T
	S	K	E	I	N		W	Y	O			
I	A	N		N	A	D	A		T	R	A	M
B	Y	E		G	R	I	D		S	O	F	A
I	S	A	K		L	A	D	E		L	I	D
S	O	D	A		E	L	L	E		E	R	E
			F	W	D		E	R	A	S	E	
K	H	A	K	I		A	S	I	F			
L	O	C	A	L	E	S		E	T	H	E	R
E	L	M		L	P	S		R	E	U	S	E
E	Y	E		S	A	T			R	E	A	L

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com



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Jumble

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BACNI

APORE

DELODO

UGATOE

You're the best catch I've ever made.
I love you.
What a great party.
They have everything.
THE WIDE RECEIVER'S WEDDING DAY FEATURED A ---

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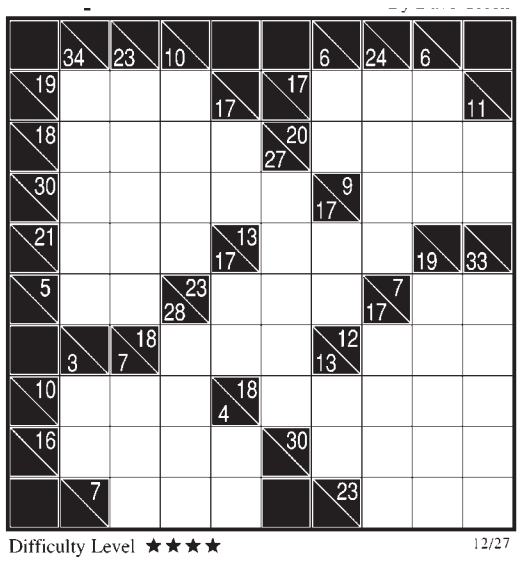
Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: UNWED OCCUR REBUKE FORGOT
Answer: The Empire was able to get another Death Star built quickly, thanks to the — WORKFORCE

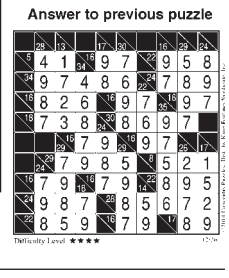
Kakuro



Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/27

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.

Answer to previous puzzle



Bridge

Kin Hubbard, a journalist and humorist who died in 1930, said, "It's the good loser who finally loses out."

At the bridge table, it's the good winner who finally eliminates his losers.

There are two common ways of eliminating losers: Ruff them in the shorter trump hand or discard them on side-suit winners.

In this deal, how should South play in four spades after West leads the heart king?

North had a minimum hand for a raise to two spades, but bridge is a bidder's game. Over four spades, West wondered if his side had a cheap save at the five-level, but he knew the spades were breaking badly for his opponents.

South has rounded-suit losers and seems to have nine top tricks: six spades, one heart and two diamonds. However, in case the play takes a nasty turn or two, declarer should play to ruff losers on the board.

He wins the first trick with his heart ace, cashes the diamond ace and returns a heart. West, who sees his partner play high-low to indicate a doubleton, wins and continues with the heart 10. But since South has also noted East's signal, he discards a club from the dummy. East pitches his second diamond.

West now leads his diamond queen, East ruffs dummy's king, and declarer overruffs. South then concedes a club trick to void the dummy of that suit.

Suppose East wins with his queen and returns a trump. Declarer wins and crossruffs home, trumping two clubs on the board and two diamonds in his hand.

North 12-27-14
♠ 6 5 2
♥ J 8
♦ K 9 7 6 4 3
♣ J 2

West
♠ --
♥ K Q 10 9 6 3
♦ Q 10 8 5
♣ A 9 4

East
♠ 10 9 8 7
♥ 7 4
♦ J 2
♣ Q 10 6 5 3

South
♠ A K Q J 4 3
♥ A 5 2
♦ A
♣ K 8 7

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♥	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ K

Sudoku

Difficulty: 4 (of 5)

1			3			9		7
			5				2	
3		2	6					4
				8			6	
5	4				3		9	8
	6					1		
		4		1	8		7	
9		5		4				

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

8	2	3	6	5	9	1	4	7
5	4	6	1	7	8	2	9	3
1	9	7	3	4	2	6	8	5
7	1	8	5	6	3	4	2	9
4	3	9	8	2	7	5	6	1
6	5	2	9	1	4	7	3	8
3	7	5	4	8	6	9	1	2
9	6	1	2	3	5	8	7	4
2	8	4	7	9	1	3	5	6

‘Lord, make me wholly yours’

I Thessalonians 5.16-25 gives us a good blueprint for life in the New Year. “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful and he will do this. Beloved, pray for us.”

David Stout

Insights

Here’s a prayer based on that passage. Pause between paragraphs to let God speak to you and/or pray, “Lord, make me wholly yours.”

Sometimes joy, prayer and thanksgiving come rather naturally. How can we not rejoice when our team wins? How can we not pray and say “Thank you” at the birth of child? Yet we are told to rejoice, pray and give thanks not only then, but constantly at all times and in all circumstances. This is not easy, God, so we ask for grace to rejoice, pray and give thanks when things are less festive, when we have to stop and think about our blessings, and when life becomes tragic and difficult. Remind us, too, that the habits we establish in good times will be there in the bad ones. May we therefore develop hearts to which rejoicing, prayer and thanksgiving come naturally.

We might not deliberately quench the Spirit or despise a prophetic word, Lord, but we do find ways to rain on your parade, deafen our ears to your word, and generally live as though you didn’t exist. We are too busy to read scripture, too preoccupied to pray, too involved to attend worship regularly. And then we wonder why you seem so distant. Give us grace to tend to our spirits by attending to yours. Make us more sensitive to your Spirit’s promptings, more responsive to your words. May the fire of your Holy Spirit burn brightly and warmly in each heart.

We pray for discernment, to make the right decision even in difficult circumstances. We pray this not only for ourselves but especially for the world’s leaders. Help them to make decisions not on the basis of self-interest, but of what is good and true and just. Let your concern for the oppressed, the brokenhearted and the captive be their motivation. May our leaders seek to repair the world’s brokenness instead of inflicting more damage. Help us all to hold on to what is good and to abstain from every form of evil in our personal, professional and political lives so that the power of the gospel to transform might be clearly seen and your kingdom come that much closer.

We need you, God of peace. We want to be entirely sanctified – that is, we want to be wholly yours. Yet we always seem to manage to keep back some part of our lives from your gracious sovereignty. We want to hold on to something we shouldn’t. We pray your conquering love might overcome our recalcitrance so that all of our lives –spirit, soul and body – might be transformed into the image of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And if Paul desired prayer, how much more do we and others need it? Father, we know Christ and the Spirit always intercede for us. Focus our hearts on this fact and help us bring others into the circle of prayer that spirals out from your throne and back again. May our lives and the lives of all those who seek your face be caught up in the mystery of your love.

Amen.

Today’s Insights was written by the Rev. David Stout, pastor of Riverview Park Christian Church in St. Joseph.

Insights is written by area clergy to give different viewpoints on a variety of topics. It is published each Saturday in cooperation with the Berrien County Association of Churches.

The views expressed by the author do not necessarily reflect the views of member churches.

Church Notes

Overflow Church, 300 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, will not hold service today. Overflow will host a New Year’s Eve party at the church from 10 p.m.-midnight. Families and children are welcome. There is a lock-in event for high school students at 9 p.m. Thursday. Contact Pastor J. Scott Samarco: ssamarco@overflowchurch.org.Church offices will be closed Dec. 31-Jan. 2.

Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 1200 W. Glenlord, St. Joseph, will hold a “Lessons and Carols” worship service at 11 a.m. Sunday. Nursery care provided.

Berrien Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4340 Lincoln Ave., St. Joseph, will feature the Rev. Jim McConnell presenting a service titled “Would the World Be Better Off Without Religion?” at 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Join us to hear him speak and discuss this important topic and share our food and fellowship.

“A Course In Miracles” study group will meet at the Lincoln Township Public Library at 11 a.m. Monday

Fairplain Presbyterian Church, 210 W. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, will hold worship service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, followed by refreshments in the courtyard. Church office will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday.

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, 1105 E. Main St., Benton Harbor, will host its annual Watch Meet service at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday. An interdenominational fellowship service will be at 5 p.m. Jan. 4 at the Main Street campus.

The Shore Church, 623 Church St., St. Joseph, will have a New Year’s Eve fun night from 7:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. The movie “God is Not Dead” will be shown along with games, food, prizes and praying in the New Year.

Faithful Travelers Gospel Singers will sponsor a new year musical at 3 p.m. Thursday at **Christian Light Baptist Church,** 1997 Eastland Ave., Benton Harbor.

Church Notes is a free listing, published each Saturday as a public service. Announcements are due by noon on Wednesday. Late items will not be published.

The editor reserves the right to edit for space and style. Incomplete information may not be published. First and last names should be furnished.

Pictures submitted should have names on the back. Pictures can be picked up at The Herald-Palladium office within 30 days of publication or can be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Send items to: Church News, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085; fax to 429-4398 or email to focus@TheHP.com. Items should include a daytime telephone number.

2014 is the bloody year of the Islamic State

Soon after his elevation to the Chair of St. Peter, Pope Francis warned that the world was entering a time when Satan would increasingly show his power, especially in lands in which believers were being crushed.

Looking toward a rising storm in the Middle East, he warned that the persecution of religious minorities is a sign of the end times.

“It will be like the triumph of the prince of this world: the defeat of God. It seems that in that final moment of calamity, he will take possession of this world, that he will be the master of this world,” said Pope Francis. “Religion cannot be spoken of, it is something private, no?”

Terry Mattingly

A year later, the pope was even more specific in a letter to churches in the ancient lands of the Bible.

“I write to you just before Christmas, knowing that for many of you the music of your Christmas hymns will also be accompanied by tears and sighs. Nonetheless, the birth of the Son of God in our human flesh is an indescribable mystery of consolation,” said Pope Francis.

“Sadly, afflictions and tribulations have not been lacking, even more recently, in the Middle East. They have been aggravated in the past months because of the continuing hostilities in the region, but especially because of the work of a newer and disturbing terrorist organization, of previously unimaginable dimensions, which has perpetrated all kinds of abuses and inhuman acts. It has particularly affected a number of you, who have been brutally driven out of your native lands, where Christians have been present since apostolic times.”

Alessandra Tarantino / AP

Pope Francis is cheered by faithful during an audience with the Holy See’s employees in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican on Monday. Pope Francis was selected as Religion Newsmaker of the Year.

Pope Francis was, of course, referring to the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria – a reign of death and destruction that was selected as the year’s top religion news story by members of the Religion Newswriters Association. And once again, Pope Francis was selected as Religion Newsmaker of the Year.

Here is the rest of the RNA Top 10 list, which included several ties:

2. The Supreme Court, in another 5-4 decision, rules that two closely held companies – Hobby Lobby and Conestoga – can claim religious objections to the Affordable Care Act mandate requiring most religious institutions to offer employees, and often students, health-insurance plans covering sterilizations and all FDA-approved contraceptives, including “morning-after” pills.

3. A rapid deterioration of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict includes the kidnappings and murders of Israeli and Palestinian civilians, amid increasing tensions over access to the Temple Mount. This includes an Israel-Hamas war that leaves more than 2,000 dead and a hellish attack on rabbis at prayer in a synagogue. (TIE) Pope Francis continues his efforts to reach out to the needy, to marginalized Catholics and to people of other faiths.

4. Liberal Protestants continue to move toward full acceptance of same-sex marriage and the ordination of noncelibate gay and lesbian clergy.

5. Health care workers, many of them missionaries or activists from faith-based groups, courageously carry on with their work during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

6. A broad coalition of Catholics, mainline Protestants and some evangelicals, especially in Latino congregations, celebrate President Barack Obama’s executive action on immigration reform.

7. Pakistani Muslim Malala Yousafzai – still recovering from Taliban gunshots in retaliation for her work supporting the education of girls – shares the 2014 Nobel Prize with children’s rights activist Kailash Satyarthi, a Hindu from India.

8. Clergy and other activists from faith-based groups help support peaceful protests against racial injustice in Ferguson, Missouri, both before and after a grand jury fails to indict police officer Darren Wilson in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown. Similar protests take place in New York, after another case in which an unarmed black man died in an altercation with white officers.

9. After years of debate, the Church of England votes to allow women bishops. For the first time, women lead three of America’s major mainline Protestant churches, and the U.S. Navy names its first female head chaplain.

10. India elects Hindu nationalist Narendra Modi as prime minister, creating tensions with the land’s religious minorities. (TIE) Movie critics proclaim 2014 as “The Year of the Bible” after the latest wave of films centering on events in the Bible – from Noah to the Exodus and on to the Rapture – or focusing on other religious themes.

Terry Mattingly is the director of the Washington Journalism Center at the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities and leads the GetReligion.org project to study religion and the news.

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Michigan City: Large 1 Bedroom upper at 204 Thurman Ave., excellent neighborhood. All utilities included, with A/C, off street parking. $580 a month, $500 Security Deposit. Call 219-577-5444

Michigan City Long Beach Cove Villas Check out our free rent specials! 2 and 3 bedroom 2 bath units. 219-879-9950 pmandmindiana .com

Michigan City: Large 2 bd+ upper, great neighborhood, off street parking call 219-877-7311

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Michigan City Deluxe 3 bdrm upper custom kitchen, ceramic tile, hardwood flooring, washer dryer hookup 324 1/2 E. 10th $720 month + utils No pets

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Michigan City, Queen's Park Apts Small quiet setting. Spacious 1&2 bdrm from $575/mo! 219-296-9606

Michigan City: Cute & Cozy 1 bed off street parking, stove & refrig, 219-362-5933 or 219-851-1931

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Stevensville MI 4 Bedroom 1.5 Bath, 2 car garage, walking distance of Lakeshore Sr/Jr High School $1250/mo 269-369-1029 or 269-369-2118

LA PORTE: 316 Oberreich St. Looking for a very clean family to make this house a home. 2 bedroom 1.5 bath with large office, with its own entrance. Really clean, lots of new upgrades, off street parking and shed. NO PETS $160 weekly Utilities not included Call 219-324-0408

HOMES FOR RENT

Michigan City Cozy 2 bedroom home in Trail Creek. 209 Canary Place. appliances included, lovely large yard, $650.00 per month plus all utilities, deposit, good credit and excellent references required. Please call 219-874-8016

Michigan City 819 E Homer Street, very nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath, in good neighborhood, lg updated kitchen & bath, All appliances plus dishwasher, new furnace, windows, detached garage and yard, washer/dryer hookups, $650 per mo plus utilities, $650 sec deposit, No Smoking/ no dogs 219-861-9942

Michigan City Gardena Street- 3 bed 1.5 bath, full basement, hardwood, large kitchen, 2 car garage. 219-728-4779

Michigan City Lease a 2 bedroom, 1 bath home Starting at $550 per month Only a few left! Call 219-874-4290

Michigan City, Unfurnished home for rent. Great location 2br, full basement, large attic. $750/mo plus sec. dep. Call 219-861-3622.

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LA PORTE: Monroe Manor 2 bedrooms $500 No appliances. No Pets Call 219-362-6525

ROOMS FOR RENT

Michigan City Dunes Inn MOVE IN SPECIAL!! Monthly rate starting at $450-$475!! Limited rooms available. Utilities included. Clean, comfortable rooms. Refrigerator microwave, satellite TV in room. On site guest laundry. Friendly service. behind Bob Evans Restaurant. Located at 3934 N. Frontage Rd off I-94 exit 34B, Please call 219-879-1150 for details.

ROOMMATE WANTED

Michigan City. 2 Roommates Wanted. Looking for two responsible Christian adults to share a clean home located in a nice quiet neighborhood located just off Hwy 20 in Michigan City. $475 Mo. w/ $475 sec. dep. Rent includes all utils and direct TV hookup in each room. Use of kitchen & household appl. Shared bathroom with other roommate. Optional garage parking for one tenant. Excel. refs a must. No smoking, pets or couples. Call 219-229-4462

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Westville IN 2 homes for sale, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, possible owner financing, $1,000 security deposit plus park approval Please call or text 219-229-4932

LEGALS

LEGALS

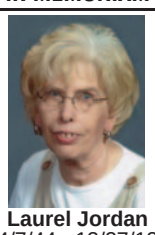
BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF NEW YEAR HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, JANUARY 1ST & 2ND FOR THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY AND WILL REOPEN ON MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH AT 8:30 A.M. TRASH PICKUP FOR WEDNESDAY 12/31 WILL BE WEDNESDAY 12/31.

Carolyn Phillips
Township Clerk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM



Laurel Jordan
4/7/44 - 12/27/12

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EDUCATION/ TEACHING

Van Buren ISD job opening: ***Temporary Teacher/Hearing Impaired (fill in for maternity leave)** View info/apply online at www.vbisd.org EOE

MEDICAL/DENTAL

Berrien Springs Job Opportunity at Frontier Dental Studio Looking to hire Dental Technician for scanning and designing for CAD. Beginner can be trained. We are located in Berrien Springs, MI. To apply, call or fax resume to 877-471-3065.

Clinical Supports Coordinator needed to work with adults with developmental disabilities from our Bangor office. Will develop supports plan, provide individual, family & group therapy, crisis intervention, medication monitoring, & other clinical services. Requires LMSW with 1 yr relevant exp. Must be able to maintain EMR. Full-time, $41,902-52,876 with benefits. Submit your resume to cjohnson@vbcmh.com EOE

Full-time/Part-time CNS's, LPN's, RN's needed for all shift. Please apply in person M-F 8:30am to 5:00pm. Orchard Grove Extended Care, 1385 E. Empire Ave, Benton Harbor MI 49022. 269-925-0033. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer

GENERAL HELP

Currently Hiring Maintenance Assistant $12 - $14/hr , Material Handler $10-12/hr Folder Operator $10-$16/hr Stitcher Operator $12 – 15/hr. Must apply in person Batson Printing 195 Michigan Benton Harbor Mi 49022.

Office help wanted: Hours: 9:30am to 6pm $8.00 an hour Send Resume to dligue@ markmanpeat.com

St. Joe, MI. Auto body technician and painters helper wanted. Experienced only need apply. St.Joe Auto Body. 269-983-1414

GENERAL HELP

Stevensville **Part**-time weekend cook, part-time dishwasher, care giver needed. Background check will be completed. Drug testing may be required. Apply in person only, 8:30am-5:00pm at Crown-Pointe Senior Living Communities, 4232 Red Arrow Hwy, Stevensville, MI 49127. No phone calls please.

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MISC. ITEMS FOR SALE

Beautiful, artificial green Cristmas tree, Gold balls & Garland all for $50. 983-6484

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For sale juke boxes, dart boards, pool tables, and games. Call 219-778-2422 or 219-575-2155

For Sale-Schwinn Ladies Bike- 21 gear-$200. 269-468-7339

ping/pong Tbl w/extras-$30, 3 Gal. air comp.$75, 10'adjust. ladder-$65. 269-925-1803

RETIRED FROM PLUMBING REPAIR, DRAIN CLEANING BUSINESS Selling All Inventory, Equipment, Tools & Office Furnishings. Dec. 29, 30 & 31 8a-4:00p. 9800 Red Arrow Bridgman, MI for info email: kproplumb@hotmail.com

Stevensville 2 end & sofa table $95. 2 end and side table $100 269-429-4040

Wheat Pennies- $3 per roll of 50. Call 269-449-2506

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If the advertiser is among the names you don't want to contact, we will destroy your sealed letter.

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HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

Interesting opportunities are heading your way this year. Financial, professional and personal partnerships will take a dramatic turn for the better. Keeping your emotions in check will ensure a fruitful and exciting future. Willingness to compromise will be the component that makes a difference for you this year.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You will get a great deal of satisfaction if you help a cause you believe in. Sharing your time and skills will bring you fulfillment and pleasure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) A change in status is apparent. If you are receptive to new ideas, you will come out ahead of the game. An act of jealousy may cause you to rethink a current relationship.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Simplicity is key. Don't rock the boat if a friend or partner insists on being in charge. Diplomacy and tact will help you avoid trouble and get what you want.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Financial gains are in the stars. Take the advice of an experienced relative regarding investments or savings plans in order to build a strong and stable future.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Make plans to attend a cultural or theatrical event with your partner. It may rekindle an interest in travel or entertainment ideas that you have not had time to pursue in the past.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Examine the motives of someone who is pressuring you for cash. You don't want to fall victim to a fly-by-night organization or smooth-talking scam artist.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A creative or artistic outlet will give you a chance to relax. Family pressures or work demands will wear you down. Don't feel guilty if you decide to take some time off.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You will gain support for a new venture. Speaking with someone from your past will give you the incentive and insight necessary to take your plans to the next level.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Strive to achieve balance between your personal and professional goals. If a new career conflicts with your personal life, you will face an ultimatum. Don't sign a contract until you consider the consequences.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Make plans to do something special with someone you love. The hectic pace of the holiday season is enough to cause problems in most relationships. It's time to kiss and make up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Take on added responsibilities or assignments in order to gain the respect of your employer. Suggest workplace improvements and offer the skills and services necessary to initiate change.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Impress others with your unique talents. Selling your ideas will bring you financial rewards and personal satisfaction. A pending partnership can be signed, sealed and delivered.

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